

Arafat orders arrest of militants

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat ordered the arrest of members of militant Islamist groups on Wednesday following the double suicide bombing that killed 14 people in a Jerusalem market, a PNA security official said. "A state of emergency has been declared in all Palestinian areas. Mr. Arafat has ordered the arrest of activists of extremist groups, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad," the official told Reuters. "The arrests have already started."

Jordan Times

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جورنال تايمز يومية عربية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي

Pilot in coma after Italy plane crash

FLORENCE (AFP) — A French passenger plane overshoot the runway on landing at Florence airport on Wednesday, slamming into a perimeter fence and seriously injuring one of the pilots, officials said. Pilot Jean-Remy Cucullier, 50, was said to be in a coma in the intensive care unit of Florence's hospital though doctors reserved judgement on the prognosis. Mr. Cucullier's co-pilot Alain Bayes, 44, suffered broken legs and was being treated in hospital while the plane's air hostess suffered minor injuries. All 14 passengers — six French, six Italian, and two Spanish — were discharged after routine examinations.

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Double suicide bombing kills 14 in Jerusalem, injures hundreds

Combined Agency Dispatches

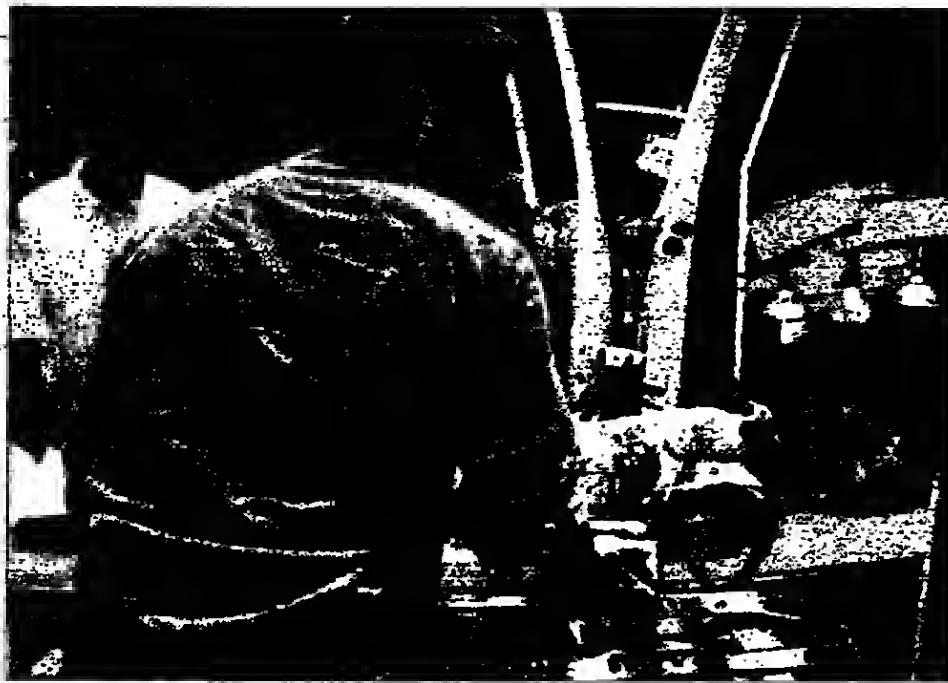
TWO SUICIDE bombers blew themselves up in a crowded outdoor vegetable market at midday Wednesday, killing 14 people and wounding more than 150, police said.

The bombings led U.S. President Bill Clinton to postpone a new initiative by envoy Dennis Ross to try and break the impasse between Palestinian and Israeli negotiators. Mr. Ross had been scheduled to start talks in the region Thursday. No new date for his trip was set.

Reuters reported that the Islamist movement Hamas claimed responsibility for the double suicide bombing in a leaflet faxed to an international news agency which gave Israel until 9 p.m. local time Sunday to free all Palestinian prisoners including Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

Hamas sources said the group's Izzeddine Al Qassam military brigades carried out the attack in Jerusalem's main Jewish market to avenge a Jewish woman's pasting of posters on Hebron storefronts insulting the Prophet Mohammed.

They said it also was in retaliation for the publication



A severely wounded Israeli man is evacuated by Israeli police as he is placed into an ambulance Wednesday following the double bombing in a crowded central market (Reuters photo)

in an Israeli science magazine of a photograph of the Virgin Mary with a cow's head. The photo, to illustrate a story on cloning, angered Palestinian Christians.

Meanwhile, Israel's Channel Two television announced that it was the Islamic Jihad who claimed

responsibility for the West Jerusalem bombing.

In addition AFP reported that Shin Bet, the internal intelligence agency, pointed to the similarity of the attack to another in January 1995, when two Jihad members blew themselves up amid a group of soldiers at Beit Lid outside Netanya in north Israel, killing 21.

Wednesday's blast occurred a week after an Israeli army special unit snatched a member of Islamic Jihad from inside the West Bank self-rule enclave of Tulkarem in an unprecedented operation.

The army said Jihad member Ghassan Al Mahdawi, 24, who escaped from an Israeli prison a year ago, had been planning anti-Israeli bombings.

The deputy head of Jerusalem police, Miki Levy, said he had the first elements of the two bombers' identities but would give no details.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, speaking at one of the hospitals where the injured were taken, said Israel expected Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and his government "to begin fighting terror as it was supposed to and hasn't done until now."

Words of condolence were not enough, he said. "What we expect is action."

Mr. Arafat, speaking in Jericho, said: "I strongly and completely condemn this terrorist act that is against the peace. The attack is not only aimed at Israelis but at peace."

and against the Palestinian people and peace in the region.

"We will put all our efforts to confront this terrorist act," he said. "We are doing our best."

The blasts tore through a lane in the Mahane Yehudah marketplace, the city's main fruit and vegetable market at about 1:15 p.m. local time, when the market was packed with shoppers.

After one of the wounded died in the hospital Wednesday night, police put the death toll at 14, including the two suicide bombers whose dismembered bodies were found at the scene. They said 157 people were injured.

Green awnings covering the alley were torn apart and vegetable stands and clothing displays overturned, their wares shredded and strewn about the asphalt. Scraps of clothing hung from telephone lines.

Smashed vegetables and watermelons covered the ground, mixed with blood. Bodies covered in soot and blood lay on stretchers and on the ground before being hurried away by rescue workers. Shoppers staggered away from the blast site, their faces covered in blood.

Dozens of ambulances lined up along Jaffa Road, one of Jerusalem's busiest streets, to carry away the dead and injured. Several children were among the seriously hurt. A 14-year-old boy was seen with a badly mangled leg, and rescue

(Continued on page 7)

King says door for dialogue closed unless on best interests of Jordan

'There can be no democracy without stability'

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday stressed that national interests precede all other considerations and therefore the parliamentary elections will be held on schedule.

In an address at the ceremony for the graduation of the 9th batch of army officers from the Royal War College, King Hussein said: "The general elections will be held on schedule and they will be held soon. It is hoped that all Jordanians will realize the sensitive circumstances facing the country and elect the most eligible people to represent them in Parliament."

Referring to the question of dialogue between the government and the political parties, the King said: "The dialogue will not be held over our democratic march, or over policies approved by Parliament which represents the people of this country. We will have a dialogue about what is in the best interest of this country and there will be no conditions. We will not act in a way to obstruct the democratic life or adversely influence it. We will protect democracy despite the existence of its enemies who pretend to be working for it, but they are actually harming it."

The King added: "There can be no democracy without stability and there will not be any public or political freedoms with democracy as chaos which is the alternative to stability and leads to destruction and ruin."

"Jordanians are called on to meet together, open a dialogue among themselves, unite their ranks and let us be logical and wise in confronting challenges and difficulties while on our way to achieving our objectives," the King stressed.

Referring to the Middle East, the King called for enhancing the foundations of peace and for all parties to step up efforts in order to save the peace process from the cycle of violence.

"Some have been saying that the peace process is dead, and therefore there is no need for a recovery room to revive it," the King added.

He asked: "Why can't people live in peace if we are able to regain our rights and put our house in order? Why should we live a life full of pain, anxiety and pessimism? Why should we

insist that this must be our life?"

King Hussein said that the bomb attacks in west Jerusalem Wednesday occurred in an atmosphere characterized by frustration resulting from the faltering peace process.

"These days, we are witnessing events, one of which happened today in Jerusalem, causing the death and injury of a great number of people," said King Hussein.

He said: "I cannot predict its consequences but I know it is closely connected with previous events, like the attack carried out by Goldstein in Hebron, and the other similar events that occurred in the previous stage including the

King expressed sorrow over the fall of innocent victims

King expresses sorrow over the fall of innocent victims

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday expressed sorrow over the fall of victims after the suicide bomb attacks in west Jerusalem on Wednesday and called for strenuous efforts to protect the peace process.

Addressing a delegation representing a coalition for peace made out of four Israeli political parties, King Hussein said: "This attack, like all others that preceded it, has been carried out by small factions whose aim is to assassinate the peace process and impose their agenda on the whole region in order to return to the state of chaos and destruction."

The King added: "All efforts should be exerted towards protecting the peace process and enabling the two sides to overcome all obstacles in its path."

Speakers for the delegation expressed their appreciation of King Hussein's efforts for peace and stability in the region.

Present at the meeting was Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh.

(Continued on page 7)

Knesset moves to limit intifada compensation

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli parliament approved draft legislation Wednesday limiting compensation for Palestinians who suffered losses during the "intifada" — the 1987-93 uprising against Israeli occupation.

The bill, which was approved by a vote of 55 to 49 in the 120-seat legislature, must be passed three times by the parliament and approved by a parliamentary committee before it becomes law.

It defines actions taken by the Israeli army in putting down the intifada as "combat activity," or actions taken during wartime, a move which would legally exonerate the military from having to provide compensation to victims.

The bill also lays at the door of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) the burden of proving that the complainant has never been involved in a "terrorist act" and so has the right to compensation.

The Israeli human rights group B'Tselem said, "this law would let the authorities escape from their responsibility for acts against innocent people and which were committed in violation of Israeli law."

It said in a statement that Israel compared the intifada to a war "only so it would not have to compensate the victims," pointing out that up till now, Israeli legislation has considered the uprising as "unrest coming under the penal code."

Israel has not considered Palestinians it arrested to be prisoners of war, the group added.

Justice Minister Tsahi Hanegbi said the bill "will alleviate the handling of complaints submitted to Israeli courts, the great

(Continued on page 7)

Israel won't accept U.S. dictates — Netanyahu

Israel 'isn't a protectorate of the U.S.'

TEL AVIV (AP) — As U.S. President Bill Clinton's envoy headed to the region Wednesday for peace talks, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would not accept American dictates.

Israeli media have reported that the U.S. — the main sponsor of the Middle East peace process — wants Israel to commit to a building freeze in Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mr. Netanyahu has said he would refuse such a freeze.

"I don't think it's acceptable to operate with a take-it-or-leave-it approach," Mr. Netanyahu said in an interview published Wednesday in the Haaretz newspaper.

Israel, he added "isn't a protectorate of the United States."

The U.S. had been trying to break a four-month impasse in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Earlier this week, the two sides agreed to resume talks.

Mr. Netanyahu told Haaretz that a peace agreement "has to be achieved by consultations and agreement and not by dictate."

His outspoken position came a day before U.S. envoy Dennis Ross was to hold talks here with Mr. Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Haaretz said Israel and the Americans were trying to reach a formula under which Israel would agree to a temporary settlement freeze, a key Palestinian demand.

Mr. Netanyahu's aide David Bar-Illan, however, said Israel wasn't prepared

to make concessions in advance of the talks.

"We are not going to pay a price for a return to the table," Mr. Bar-Illan told the Associated Press. "They quit, they boycotted for five months and now they want to be paid."

Talks between Israel and the Palestinians broke down in March after Israel began construction of a settlement in Arab east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians claim as a future capital.

On Monday, however, the sides announced they would resume talks.

Palestinian security chief Jibril Rajoub told Israel Radio that security cooperation between the sides would not resume unless Israel halted settlement construction at Jabal Abu Ghneim.

Majali calls for smart partnership, not competition, among countries

KUALA LUMPUR (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali stressed the importance of diversity and tolerance as a basic principle towards reconciliation among civilizations.

The prime minister said in a conference at Langkawi on Wednesday that Jordan is looking for cooperation and coordination with all countries on the basis of "Smart Partnership."

"There is always a chance and a room for high development for small countries if they understand the rules of the game and practise it in time. Such a chance is based on the very principle of Smart Partnership that is cooperation not competition," he said.

"We look at partnership not only in business but it should include networking in science and technology, joint

ventures of technological development, services and participation of technical manpower," he added.

Quoting His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Dr. Majali, talking about the experience of Jordan, said:

"We are living in a pluralistic world, where pluralism and diversity could well become the rules rather than the exceptions. Pluralism (religious, social, cultural or ethnic) is not new to the Islamic and Arabic World, nor it is new to this country. Tolerance towards other faiths and cultures is a fundamental principle of Islam. With all due respect to Professor Huntington's Clash of Civilisations, I hereby speak of a reconciliation of civilisations within the one world we share."

Premier Majali emphasised that this new order of partner-

ship or free participation should become part and parcel of Jordanian culture.

"It is hoped that parallel to our activities as politicians, professionals and businessmen... educationalists should be able to include in their education curricula the teaching of shared elements and common sources. The education process should imprint a clear picture of mutual understanding, trust and cooperation not only among different races and faiths but also among partners," he said pointing to Jordan's unique position as being part of Asia, adjacent to Africa, neighbouring the Mediterranean, a main corner of the Middle East region and a Muslim country with profound attachment to Arabic-Islamic culture.

Palestinian legislature demands ouster of Arafat's government

Combined Agency Dispatches

PALESTINIAN LAWMAKERS Wednesday demanded an unprecedented vote of no confidence in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) cabinet after a report implicated almost all its ministries in corruption.

"We are going to ask for an emergency session of the legislative council to be held Sunday or Monday to hold a no confidence vote," said Hatem Abdul Qader, a member of a special commission which issued the scathing report Tuesday.

He told AFP the vote would be against either the entire self-rule cabinet or just the three ministers named in the report by a

Palestinian Legislative Council commission. Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has vowed to take "all the necessary measures" to curb corruption detailed by lawmakers in a scathing report on his administration.

Mr. Arafat made the pledge through an adviser after legislators urged him Tuesday to sack his entire cabinet and put at least two ministers suspected of wrongdoing on trial.

"The president is studying the recommendations of the committee," Mr. Arafat's adviser Nabil Abu Rudeineh told reporters. "He will take all the necessary measures to guarantee smooth performance in the Palestinian [National] Authority," he said without

elaborating. However, International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath, also Mr. Arafat's top negotiator with the Israelis, said, "there is no basis to the report. They have no evidence." Mr. Shaath is accused in the report of diverting ministry funds for personal use. Civil Affairs Minister Jamil Al Tarifi and Transport Minister Ali Qawasmech were also fingered by the report.

A large number of ministers showed up Wednesday to defend themselves as the council deliberated the report's recommendations, which called for the entire PNA cabinet to be sacked because all but four ministers were implicated to corruption or misuse of

power. The result was a litany of confessions as several ministers admitted their ministries were rife with corruption but insisted they themselves were not responsible.

"There have been problems and we are working to correct them," Local Administration Minister Saeb Erakat told the council.

"There is nothing much I can do about mismanagement in the ministry," Health Minister Riyad Zaanun pleaded.

"There is a mafia which runs the buying of medicines from Israel and a

(Continued on page 7)

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person riding a horse. The rider is wearing a dark, patterned garment and is looking towards the right. The horse is also dark and appears to be wearing a bridle. The image is framed by a thick black border.

**Minister
for Refugees
agrees**

Petra ph

Their hon-
orary Min-
istry Affairs St.
M. B.

Iran conservatives signal trouble for Khatami

Water registrat

TEHRAN (R) — Conservatives in the Iranian parliament, whose speaker was heavily defeated in the Islamic Republic's presidential

election. Wednesday night called a tough time for ministers in President-elect Mohammad Khatami's cabinet.



Despite feverish speculation and long lists in newspapers of ministerial hopefuls, Mr. Khatami has declined to name anyone being considered.

... Sources close to the Shiite Muslim clergyman say he has identified three nominees for every portfolio. ...

13:00 Doha (RJ)

[illegible]

WHAT

FILM

CONCEPT

performance by Harvard University
Cultural Centre at 8.00pm

JERASH FEST

...FESTIVAL

...entitled "Hestia" at ...

by Karagounides Group of G
High Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
by Hani Shaker

show exist

Children's plays "Sun and Moon" by
Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
Strange "The Friend"

at "Donkey" and at Gracia

by Jordanian bands and
7:00 p.m.
of handicrafts and some
officials for

International refugee protection agreement signed

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Foreign Affairs Fayez Tarawneh Wednesday asserted that Jordan adheres to its principles of supporting all U.N. humanitarian missions and efforts to alleviate refugee suffering.

Dr. Tarawneh and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representative to Jordan Zobia Hassini-Ashagrie signed an agreement on cooperation between Jordan and the UNHCR at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The agreement set the legal framework for bilateral cooperation in providing international protection to refugees on behalf of the global community.

A supplement to the agreement marked Jordan's respect for international legitimacy and human rights, having provided safe haven for people of different nationalities persecuted in



Minister of Foreign Affairs Fayez Tarawneh and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representative to Jordan Zobia Hassini-Ashagrie sign an agreement for bilateral cooperation in providing international protection to refugees (Petra photo)

their home countries, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement said.

Ms. Hassini-Ashagrie voiced the UNHCR's appreciation for His Majesty King Hussein and HRH Crown Prince

Hasan for their continued efforts to shelter refugees both from the Middle East and abroad.

Voter registration centres open in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Governor Talaat Nawaiseh Wednesday announced that 48 centres within the Amman Governorate will register voters to participate in the 1997 general elections.

Centres will process registration applications between Aug. 1 through

Aug. 16, according to Mr. Nawaiseh.

Citizens must bring their family book as the official requisite document for the registration process, he added.

Six centres have been opened for voters in the first district, eight in the second district, six in the

third district, nine in the fourth district, thirteen in the fifth district, and six centres for the central badia region.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior yesterday announced that Thursday is the final date for receiving applications from voters who have changed their

place of residence and wish to officially register such.

By the middle of August, ministry staff will have completed its final version of voter lists.

A ministry committee has been processing applications from members of the public wishing to change their voting district.

RSS, JIEC sign contract stipulating expansion of Al Hassan Industrial City

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) will conduct a feasibility study and prepare designs and tender documents for the expansion of Al Hassan Industrial City, near the northern city of Irbid, as stipulated by an agreement signed Wednesday with the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC).

According to the agreement, the RSS will prepare designs for infrastructure and civil works such as water, electricity and sewage networks.

The expansion is slated to cover 450 dunums of land and achieve completion within a time frame of 178 days at the estimated cost of JD 45,000.

The first stage of Al Hassan Industrial City, constructed on 427 dunums of land, was effected in 1991.

At the time, the JIEC developed buildings to house 54 factories and industrial projects which now boast a combined capital of JD 55 million.

The project has created employment for 2,000 workers as well as domestic and foreign businesses, according to JIEC Director General Asem Hindawi who signed the agreement with RSS President Saeed



JIEC Director General Asem Hindawi and RSS President Saeed Alloush Wednesday sign an agreement stipulating the expansion of Al Hassan Industrial Estates (Petra photo)

Alloush.

Subsequent to the signing ceremony, Mr. Hindawi affirmed that once the feasibility study and designs for expansion have been prepared, the JIEC will embark upon the project's implementation.

The plan comes within the framework of JIEC plans for expanding industrial estates up to the year

2000, he added.

The JIEC has formulated plans for establishing industrial estates in various governorates to cater to the growing demand for factories and industrial facilities, Mr. Hindawi explained.

The corporation's board decided to expand Al Hassan Industrial City as the factories are proximate to

main trade routes linking Jordan with neighbouring countries, he stated.

The RSS will accelerate the feasibility study and designs that the JIEC might better cope with growing demand on factories and encouragement of industrial investments in Jordan, Dr. Alloush asserted.

Abbadi laments pollution, desert encroachment on agricultural lands

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi Wednesday described the country's capital as suffering from pollution and the encroachment of deserts on agricultural and arable lands.

Addressing a one-day seminar on public gardens held at the Professional Associations Complex, Dr. Abbadi requested that citizens exert all possible efforts to protect their capital and fight desertification.

The Amman municipality will continue to develop green belts around the capital, in the form of parks as it will inside the city, he affirmed.

President of the Agricultural Engineers Association Engineer Hassan Jaber enumerated two major obstacles blocking the creation of parks: water

scarcity and compensation which must be paid to landowners whose property might be appropriated by the municipality for gardens.

He suggested that the municipality declare a "garden year" in Amman during which special programmes encouraging the public to beautify their capital could be organised.

Private firms could also be requested to contribute to the creation of parks and religious leaders might become involved in raising funds to create gardens, he added.

Columist for Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tareq Masarweh presented a report in which he lamented a lack of sufficient parks where children might spend their free time.

He underlined the hazards many of

these children face as they are often compelled to play in the streets, especially during summer vacation.

According to official statistical bulletins last year, there were 3,605 cases of children hit by vehicles in Jordan, the majority of whom were in Amman.

Parks are essential components of a city along with cultural centres, public libraries and art exhibitions, Mr. Masarweh stated.

According to Jamal Suwan, 80 per cent of towns and villages in Jordan have been built on agricultural land.

In his report, Dr. Suwan encouraged drastic measures to enable the municipality to appropriate plots of land for gardens and prevent urban development.

Environmental activists return from trip to Italy

By Nadia Mukhlis
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Friends of Environment (FOE) delegation completed a two-week environmental visit to the Veneto region of Italy last Saturday.

The trip came as part of a bilateral agreement signed between Jordan and Italy to foster socio-cultural exchanges on health and environmental policy, according to Director of the FOE Media Committee Rana Naber.

The two-week trip included field visits to four natural reserves, with descriptions of both the reserves' establishment and problems facing them.

The delegation, constituting fifteen secondary level students, two supervisors and President of FOE Ra'ouf Dabbas, also toured several natural areas, climbed the Alpine foothills, visited various cultural and historical museums, sites and botanical gardens, according to Ms. Naber.

The fifteen were chosen from a pool of students who won an environmental competition and who demonstrated outstanding results in projects which aimed at solving existing environmental problems in their areas of residence, she explained.

The Jordanian delegation



Friends of the Environment delegation on visit to Veneto region of Italy

met with Minister of Health and Environment of the Veneto region Iles Braghetto and Mayor of Padova Municipality and Vice-President of Padova University, Giorgio Franceschetti.

Mr. Braghetto and Mr. Dabbas exchanged gifts to memorialise the visit in Venice, Ms. Naber said.

Mr. Dabbas told the Jordan Times that he was extremely grateful to the Italian minister and his staff for the excellent programme prepared for the delegation.

He emphasised the importance of such environmental cooperation between Jordan and Italy.

The children were chosen to participate in the mission so that Jordan might benefit from their environmental

knowledge and education, Mr. Dabbas said.

The FOE mission to Italy was covered in an agreement, signed in Jordan last January during an official Italian visit to the Kingdom.

Such contracts are valid instruments for the exchange of experiences and knowledge on environmental issues, especially water and air pollution, Prof. Braghetto stated last January during the signing ceremony.

FOE was granted a scholarship that 15 students might visit Veneto for three consecutive years in the agreement which also stipulated professional six-month scholarships for two persons, chosen by the committee, to update environmental education and data.

The agreement was signed by former Minister of the Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razak Tubaihat with Mr. Dabbas.

The Friends of the Environment is an independent non-governmental organisation whose founders are citizens interested in implementing environmental community-based development projects.

It was founded in 1994, officially registered in 1995, and its main objectives are encouraging creativity and innovation, utilising natural energy and providing training for young students.

FOE is committed to increasing awareness of the importance of a healthy environment for a healthy planet, Ms. Naber said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" at the American Center, Abdoun on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

CONCERT

* Musical performance by Harvard University band at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

JERASH FESTIVAL

THURSDAY

* Algerian operetta entitled "Heizia" at Artemis Steps at 8:30 p.m.

* Concert by Karagounides Group of Greece at the Sound and Light Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

* Concert by Hani Shaker of Egypt at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

* Fashion show entitled "Sun and Moon" by Hana Sadiq at the North Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

* Two children's plays "The Friends" and "The Story of the Strange Doctor" at Gracia Theatre at 8:00 p.m.

* Performance by the Amman Youth Orchestra at the main square at 7:00 p.m.

* Display of handicrafts and sculptures at Zeus vault.

* Entertainment programme at Gracia Theatre at 8:00 p.m.

* Poetry recitals by Palestinian, Egyptian, Italian and Jordanian poets at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Weibdeh at 6:45 p.m.

FRIDAY

* Algerian operetta entitled "Heizia" at Artemis Steps at 8:30 p.m.

* Ballet entitled "Sleeping Beauty" by Russian Omsk Ballet Company at the North Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

* Concert by Hani Shaker of Egypt at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

* Musical performance by Ramallah Band of Palestine at the Sound and Light Theatre 8:30 p.m.

* Display of handicrafts and sculptures at Zeus vault.

* Palestinian play "A Tale of a Boy and a Girl" at Gracia Theatre at 9:15 p.m.

* Poetry recitals by Iraqi, UAE, Syria and Jordanians poets at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:45 p.m.

LECTURES

* "Dhban Plateau Regional Project" by Chang Ho C. Ji at the American Center of Oriental Research (Tel. 846-117) on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

* "Promoting Sustainable Economic Development in a Tourism Zone: The Case of the Petra Region Planning Council" by Dr. Peter Doan at the Falgout House, Shamsan at 4:00 p.m. (Tel. 684760).

CARE to dedicate 10 projects to local communities

AMMAN (J.T.) — CARE International will Thursday dedicate 10 completed agricultural projects to local communities in the Wadi Ibn Hamad district, in the southern Karak governorate, according to a CARE announcement Wednesday.

Director of CARE Projects Anis Turbieh affirmed that Karak Governor Badreddin Wedian would formally announce the completion of the projects at a ceremony to be held at the agricultural nursery in Rabbeh near Karak.

The ceremony is to be attended by representatives of various organisations and local communities, he added.

The project will include water wells to collect rain water, stone fences, retaining walls, irrigation canals, fruit trees and projects for homesteaders that they might earn increased income for themselves and their families.

According to Mr. Turbieh, CARE contributed JD 69,000 out of the total cost of JD 78,000 for the projects which were implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture in conjunction with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation as it was with the ministries of social development and agriculture and in consultation with the local communities themselves.

Work on the projects began in February of 1996 subsequent to a CARE survey of local community needs, he stated.

Mr. Turbieh described the projects as designed to encourage local communities to promote agricultural production and ensure sustainable development while improving standards of living.

While the work on the projects was underway, CARE provided training to personnel in the two ministries regarding accurate methods of determining local community needs and managing agricultural projects.

Anti-discrimination charter to be covered in workshop

AMMAN (J.T.) — The impact of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in Jordan will be reviewed in a workshop organised by the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender on August 4, at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

The task force is comprised of nine Amman-based United Nations agencies — ESCWA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNRWA, WFP and WHO, according to a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) statement.

The one-day workshop aims to promote awareness of the CEDAW in the Kingdom and cover the Jordanian experience in its implementation.

The workshop will also discuss reservations Jordan has expressed towards specific articles of the convention and explore potential national mechanisms for monitoring its execution, the statement said.

The Jordanian government signed the CEDAW in December 1980, however it wasn't until August of 1992 that it was ratified by Parliament.

Nevertheless, Jordan continues to regard three clauses of the convention as non-binding as they either contradict national law or Islamic Shari'a, the statement said.

The clauses in question are ones which proclaim equal rights to men and women with respect to the nationality of their children and give them freedom to choose their residence as well as one which grants women equality in marriage and its dissolution, responsibility as a parent and the right to choose a family name and profession.

"We are not here just to stress the reservations at the workshop," said Lami Nasser, a gender expert and

CEDAW consultant who is co-organising the workshop. "We also want to ensure that other aspects of the CEDAW in the areas of education, political participation and employment are being implemented."

The women's movement in Jordan has become increasingly vocal in the last decade, advocating for changes in policies which discriminate against women, the statement said.

Legislation has recently been passed enabling Jordanian women to include children, who are still minors, on their passports without prior approval from the children's father, according to the statement.

In addition, a Jordanian woman married to a foreigner as well as divorced women and widows are now entitled to their own official family identification documents.

In recent years, Jordanian women have begun to take on more visible roles in public life, the statement said.

In 1995, the first woman mayor was elected in the governorate of Ajloun, and last year the first female judge was appointed.

Although the Jordanian constitution and the national charter stipulate that all citizens, male and female, are equal before the law, many women have been hindered from pursuing professional and political roles because of cultural and religious traditions, according to the statement.

The CEDAW workshop will be attended by key members of women's groups, non-governmental organisations, Parliament, relevant ministries and the media.

Pakistan rejects Indian sovereignty over Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan Wednesday rejected Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's assertion of Indian sovereignty over Kashmir and dismissed his offer of talks with Kashmiris as unimpressive. "Pakistan clearly rejects any assertion of Indian sovereignty over any part of Jammu and Kashmir," a foreign office spokesman said. Mr. Gujral told parliament Monday the whole of Kashmir is an integral part of India and will remain so. "This claim flies in the face of internationally recognised disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir," the spokesman said in a statement. Pakistan holds the northern third of Kashmir. The Himalayan state, claimed by both countries, has sparked two

wars since their independence from Britain in 1947. Commenting on Mr. Gujral's statement on talks with militants waging a separatist campaign in the Indian controlled zone of Kashmir, the spokesman said: "We are not impressed." Mr. Gujral said during a visit to Indian-held Kashmir Saturday he was ready for unconditional talks with Muslim separatists but backtracked Sunday by saying he would not talk to them until they surrendered their arms. The spokesman said similar offers had been made previously as well, but "these have never inspired any confidence in the Kashmiri people." The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) an

umbrella organisation of militant factions, has also rejected the offer, he said. The spokesman underlined that Mr. Gujral's visit to Kashmir was greeted by a "widespread general strike" and added Kashmiris had also "categorically rejected the sham election held under the control of Indian security forces" last year. The Kashmir dispute has lasted for 50 years "primarily because the Kashmiris have been denied their right to self determination enshrined in the relevant U.N. resolution," the Pakistani spokesman said. He stressed that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's initiative for the resumption of dialogue with India was "imbued with sincerity of purpose." It was aimed at "seeking a

peaceful settlement of a dispute which has bedevilled relations between our two countries for far too long." Indian and Pakistani foreign secretaries held a second session here last month following their maiden round in New Delhi in March after a break of more than three years. The Islamabad meeting agreed to set up working groups to resolve disputes including Kashmir. The next round is to be held in New Delhi in September. "We believe that this process offers the best possible opportunity for meaningful negotiations on all outstanding issues through the agreed mechanism of the working groups in future rounds of talks," the Pakistani spokesman said.

Britain's Cook says Bosnia war crimes issue will not 'go away'

SARAJEVO (R) — British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said Tuesday that Western powers stood ready to take action in former Yugoslavia to bring indicted war criminals to justice. Mr. Cook defended a NATO swoop this month on two Serbs suspected of war atrocities and said the British-led operation did not represent an attack against any national community in Bosnia, rebuffing Serb complaints. "It is our active recognition that after the appalling events of the recent past, a durable peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina depends on justice being achieved," Mr. Cook told a news conference.

He warned authorities in Bosnia's Serb and Muslim-Croat entities and in neighbouring Croatia and Yugoslavia that major powers would keep pushing for the prosecution of those charged by the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague. "The authorities in both entities — and in Zagreb and Belgrade — should now understand that if they do not fulfil their obligations under international law and deliver indictees to the Hague, the international community is prepared to act." "This issue will not go away," Mr. Cook said. A raid this month by British soldiers on two Serbs indicted for war crimes has angered ultra-nationalist Serb leaders and sparked retaliatory bombings against international moni-

tors and NATO peacekeeping troops. Earlier in the day, Mr. Cook exchanged barbs with the Serb member of Bosnia's collective presidency, Momcilo Krajisnik, in talks held in the Sarajevo suburb of Lukavica. Mr. Krajisnik said that calls for extraditing war crimes suspects, including former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic, were counter-productive and dangerous. "In the Serb republic, Mr. Karadzic is not considered to be guilty," said Mr. Krajisnik, a loyal ally of Mr. Karadzic.

The U.N. tribunal has indicted Mr. Karadzic for crimes against humanity in connection with the brutal 1992-95 siege of Sarajevo, mass expulsions of Muslims and Croats, and the slaughter of thousands of Muslim men from the eastern enclave of Srebrenica, the war's worst atrocity. Seventy-eight people have been publicly indicted by the tribunal — 57 Serbs, 18 Croats and three Muslims. Two of these have been convicted and sentenced and a further eight are in the tribunal's custody. Two died before they could stand trial and the other 66 remain at large. The tribunal relies on the ex-Yugoslav republics, other states or international troops in Bosnia to make arrests. Mr. Cook irritated Bosnian Muslim leaders before his arrival when he told a British newspaper that some

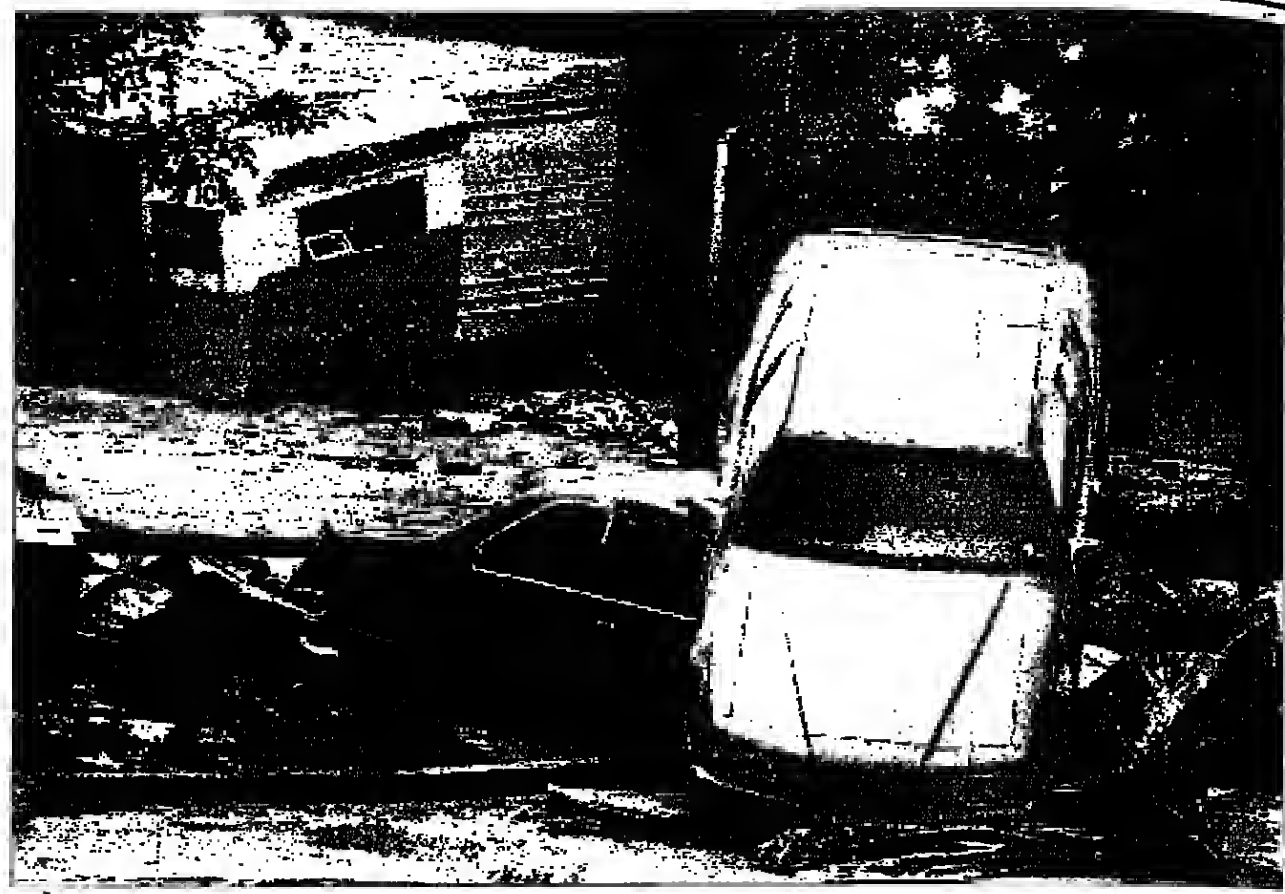
of the international aid donated to Bosnia had been misused by Muslim officials. He called on Bosnian leaders to crack down on corruption and provide for proper accounting of public expenditures, customs revenues and the use of reconstruction aid. "It is the basic right of peoples in any society throughout Europe to know how their money is spent," Mr. Cook said. Mr. Izetbegovic announced plans Monday to form a special commission to investigate possible fraud but demanded Mr. Cook provide evidence to back up the allegations. "If there are some people or companies that have foreign private accounts, then they have to have names. So I asked Mr. Cook to name them publicly," Mr. Izetbegovic said after meeting Mr. Cook.

Corruption has become an explosive post-war issue in Bosnia since the president of country's Serb Republic, Biljana Plavsic, accused her rivals last month of running smuggling rackets at the expense of ordinary people. Her detailed allegations implicated Mr. Karadzic and his allies in Serb territory as well as some officials in the neighbouring Muslim-Croat federation. Mr. Cook was due to fly by helicopter to the north-western town of Banja Luka to meet Plavsic, who is locked in a power struggle with Karadzic loyalists.

Efforts to end Burma refugee crisis unproductive

CHITTAGONG (R) — Efforts by the Bangladesh government and UNHCR relief agency Tuesday to resolve a crisis over food supplies in camps for Burmese refugees failed to achieve a breakthrough, officials said. "We tried to convince the refugees at Nayapara and Kumpong camps to call off their food strike but received no immediate assurance," one government official said. "We jointly urged the thousands of refugees... and tried to persuade them (for ending the strike) for almost four hours," relief and repatriation commissioner, Qamrul Huda said. "The outcome would be clear tomorrow when we will offer them food and medicine again. There was no immediate breakthrough (today)," he told Reuters by telephone.

Van To Nguyen, the representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees at Cox's Bazar said: "Huda and myself will talk to the refugees at both the camps tomorrow (again) to request them to stop agitating as the government already pledged not to send back anyone forcibly." Many of Bangladesh's 21,000 Burmese refugees, known as Rohingyas, began the food boycott as part of their protest against alleged government attempts to send them home by force. Clashes between police and Rohingyas resisting repatriation on July 20 left nearly 20 people injured, forcing authorities to postpone the repatriation from the two camps. Mr. Van To and Mr. Huda visited the camps Tuesday after local and foreign Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) reported that scores of refugees had fallen sick due to virtual starvation since July 21. "They will talk to the militant refugee leaders who had enforced the food strike," one government official had earlier told Reuters. "We are expecting the ice to start melting soon," he added. "Forget the repatriation, we are now much more eager to persuade them to take food because any death out of starvation would trigger a far worse situation," one official said. The relief and government officials reaffirmed to the refugees Tuesday that Dhaka would not send anyone home against their will. The UNHCR earlier this month lodged a strong protest with Bangladesh over the alleged forcible deportation of the refugees from Cox's Bazar to Teknaf in the southernmost tip. The refugees were also preventing mothers from taking children to medical centres in an effort to intensify their campaign to stay in Bangladesh.



A car rests on top of another in the middle of a devastated mobile home park on the banks of Spring Creek in Fort Collins, Colorado. Five women died and at least twenty people are missing in the aftermath of a flash flood caused by eight inches of rain in five hours (Renter photo)

At least 5 people die in Colorado flood

FORT COLLINS (AFP) — At least five people were dead after torrential rains caused massive flooding in this small town in northern Colorado, officials said. Most of the victims were in mobile homes that were swept away by the floodwaters. Rescuers worked late into the night Tuesday looking

for 10 people still unaccounted for and clearing the carnage left behind by the worst flooding in the state in 22 years. The killer flood began building upstream as up to 20 centimetres of rain engorged a small creek bed already saturated by three days of rain. As trailers were ripped

from cinderblock foundations, gas lines ruptured and fires broke out. "It was like a disaster movie — raging waters, live wires and flames everywhere, terrified people screaming for help," said Fire-fighter Jim Pietrangolo, one of the first on the scene. "We were really worried

since there were only three of us on the engine... One lady speaking Spanish pointed to a tree, held up three fingers and said, 'ninos,' or babies were up there." Authorities said at least 35 people were injured and taken to the Poudre Valley Hospital.

German officials see signs floods could recede

BAD FREIENWALDE (R) — Officials in the east German state of Brandenburg began to express hope Wednesday that they could avert a major flooding disaster from the swollen River Oder on the border to Poland. Thousands of soldiers, aid workers and villagers have launched a spectacular effort over the past few days, furiously filling sandbags to prop up sections of the water-sodden dikes.

"The flood wave that was expected last night did not arrive," said a relieved spokesman for the Brandenburg Interior Ministry. "The water levels could fall considerably by Thursday." About 900 soldiers struggled overnight to support a critical section of a dike on a 70-kilometre stretch of the border along the Oderbruch plains region. The area, a fertile farming region and the bread basket

of the former east Germany, is extremely vulnerable to floods. It is separated from the higher-lying Oder River only by a system of dikes built 250 years ago when swamps were drained to create the huge basin of farmland. Some of the worst floods this century hit Poland and the Czech Republic earlier, killing 100 people in the two countries. No deaths have been reported in Germany, but homes, businesses and farms have been extensively damaged.

The last time an Oder dike was breached in Germany was in 1947 near Reitwein in the southern part of the Oderbruch. The floods then destroyed homes and crops and resulted in loss of life. With the floods of 50 years ago still fresh in mind, local townsfolk from small children to grandparents have pitched into a battle against the rising tide for days. Many of the 5,000 villagers who were evacuated from the region last Friday returned this week to launch a final effort to try to save their homes. Soldiers working round-the-clock shifts filled sandbags to bolster a three kilometre section of the dike near Hohenwutzen in the north, where the most critical points in the dike have appeared in a westward bend in the river. Helicopters each carrying up to five tonnes of sand flew to parts of the dike that has been under intense pressure for nearly two weeks. Even if the river level falls, villagers are still racing against the clock, hoping to keep the sodden and weakened dikes from bursting under the enormous pressure. The situation remains tense as there are still

numerous spots in the dikes where water has seeped through, making clear that their foundations remain unsteady. Officials said the most vulnerable spot in the dikes protecting the Oderbruch basin area was still near Hohenwutzen. Chancellor Helmut Kohl visited east German towns threatened by floods Tuesday and said the spectacular efforts by soldiers and workers and townsfolk to keep the dikes intact exemplified the unity of east and west Germany. As a precautionary measure, Brandenburg officials will begin mass inoculations this week, fearing that rotting animal carcasses could bring disease to flooded towns south of Frankfurt An Der Oder where houses were submerged to the rooftops by several breaches of the dike last week.

China's army frowns on factionalism, slams West

BEIJING (R) — China's army pledged allegiance to the Communist Party on the eve of its founding anniversary Wednesday but warned against factionalism within its ranks and slammed the West for trying to depoliticise the army. "The military must... obey the party," the official People's Daily said in a front-page commentary to mark the 70th anniversary of the August 1 founding of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

"All the military's actions must follow the orders of the party at any time and under any circumstances," it said. The Communists founded the PLA's predecessor, the ragtag Red Army, which won the Chinese civil war and swept the Communists to power in 1949 after defeating Chiang Kai-Shek's nationalist army that fled into exile in Taiwan. "The reason why our military could grow out of nothing, grow from small to big and from weak to strong... is a result of the correct leadership of the PLA," said the Liberation Army Daily, mouthpiece of the military. The Liberation Army Daily threw its weight behind Jiang Zemin, who holds China's top three jobs as Communist party boss, state president and commander-in-chief of the army. "Resolutely upholding the authority of the party central committee collective leadership with Comrade Jiang Zemin as the core is in the basic interest of the party, the state and the people," the newspaper said. Mr. Jiang issued an internal directive this month, citing a wave of crime and corruption among its three million troops and urging rectification. Analysts said the

bold move by Mr. Jiang marked an overt bid to oust all challengers to his grasp on power into the 21st century. Mr. Jiang has been eager to assert his authority over the army since the death last February of paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping, who made sure that his post at the top of the powerful military was the last he relinquished before formally retiring in 1990. However, Mr. Jiang lacks Deng's stature and tight grip over the military and never served in the army, a qualification regarded as essential in China by the late chairman, Mao Zedong who said "power grows out of the barrel of the gun."

The Liberation Army Daily warned against factionalism that has riven the military for decades. "The military must heed what the party says and must not at any time... Engage in small circles," it said. "The PLA... Must forever be loyal to the party, the people, the state and socialism," the newspaper said. "The military... must make the aim of the party its aim and the goal of the party its goal."

The Liberation Army Daily slammed the West for trying to "Westernise" and "split" China. "Hostile Western forces have never abandoned their plot to 'Westernise', 'split' our country," the newspaper said. It attacked the West for calling for the "depoliticisation" of the PLA, describing this as a fallacy to try to change the nature of the Chinese army. "Hegemonism and power politics still exist," it said.

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Lawyers push for Clinton sex harassment lawsuit

LITTLE ROCK (R) — Lawyers representing Paula Jones in her sex harassment lawsuit against President Bill Clinton urged a Little Rock judge Tuesday to push ahead with the case despite Mr. Clinton's request that it be dismissed. Gilbert Davis and Joseph Cammarata said their client has already waited for more than three years to have her case heard, and that Mr. Clinton's lawyers were trying to "short circuit" the litigation with procedural manoeuvres.

In a 99-page filing to U.S. district Judge Susan Webber Wright, they said Mr. Clinton used his position as

Arkansas governor to try to pressure Ms. Jones to agree to his request for sex at a Little Rock hotel in May 1991. "The alleged actions of Mr. Clinton and his agents are not merely shocking. They are also clear abuses of power conferred upon Mr. Clinton as an official of the state of Arkansas," the attorneys said. Earlier this month, Mr. Clinton's lawyers flatly denied all Ms. Jones' allegations and asked Judge Wright to postpone the discovery process in the case until she ruled on the dismissal motion. Ms. Jones, a state employ-

ee while Mr. Clinton was governor, claims she was told by a state trooper to go to a hotel room to meet Mr. Clinton during a government conference and that Mr. Clinton exposed himself to her inside the room, asking her for oral sex. Her lawyers said Tuesday that Mr. Clinton and the state trooper repeatedly reminded Ms. Jones that Mr. Clinton was her ultimate boss, placing pressure on her to accept his request for sex. They said Ms. Jones refused so Mr. Clinton again reminded her of his position and admonished her to keep quiet about the incident. In his response to the law-

suit, Mr. Clinton earlier this month "adamantly" denied all the charges, saying Ms. Jones was motivated by greed and was collaborating with his political enemies in an attempt to damage his presidency. Mr. Clinton's lawyers have tried to postpone the lawsuit until after he leaves the White House, arguing that it would distract him from his presidential duties. But, in a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court said in May that Ms. Jones' lawsuit could proceed immediately. Mr. Clinton has until August 15 to reply to Ms. Jones' written arguments presented Tuesday.

Radio stations reopen after Milosevic pledge

BELGRADE (R) — Several independent radio and television stations have resumed broadcasting after Yugoslav authorities returned equipment confiscated in a crackdown earlier this month. "Equipment is being returned in line with the promise by (federal telecommunications) Minister Dojicilo Radojevic," independent Belgrade newspaper Nasa Borba quoted a telecommunications ministry official as saying. Yugoslav authorities closed down 76 local radio and television stations across Serbia earlier this month, saying they had no operating licences. At least five returned to the airwaves Tuesday.

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic promised last week to halt a media crackdown and ensure fair treatment for political rivals in campaigning for Serbian presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for September 21. As a result, Mr. Radojevic said last weekend he would postpone bringing the operation of local radio

and television stations into line with licensing regulations until after the elections. Yugoslav Information Minister Goran Matic said any moves to regulate the chaos in the media before the elections "could be interpreted as an obstacle to preparations for free and fair elections."

"The delay (in regulating the status of broadcasters) is a sign of goodwill to enable the best possible elections," Belgrade newspaper Politika quoted him as saying. Mr. Milosevic last Thursday agreed to demands by opposition leader Vuk Draskovic, including multi-party control over the electoral process and access to all the media for opposition parties, as preconditions for his participation in the autumn elections. Mr. Draskovic was immediately granted an unprecedented 90-minute interview on state television over the weekend and a 60-minute appearance on pro-government TV Politika Tuesday. The United States says

improved press freedom in Serbia is a key condition for better relations between Washington and Belgrade, which would help end international financial sanctions against Yugoslavia. Media control is vital to the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) in the run-up to the Serbian elections. Voters will be choosing a successor to Mr. Milosevic, 55, who was sworn in as Yugoslav federal president last week after ruling Serbia for a decade.

The opposition says state-run television, the basic disseminator of information to a population too poor to buy newspapers regularly, has a heavy pro-SPS bias. Some opposition parties have promised to boycott the elections in protest. Mr. Milosevic and the SPS can now afford to be generous to the opposition as it poses less of a threat than last winter, when huge crowds of up to half a million protesters took to the streets of Belgrade.

Albanian government

Albanian government won over-riding parliamentary vote Tuesday for its platform to resettle in the lawless north and cooperate with the UN to build a future in the north.

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Albanian government faces mammoth task

TIRANA (R) — Albania's new government won overwhelming parliamentary backing Tuesday for its ambitious platform to restore order in the lawless nation and co-operate with all sides to build a future in Europe.

Parliament, dominated by the Socialists and their allies with 119 seats in the 155-seat chamber, backed the programme of the socialist-led, five-party coalition government with 114 votes in favour and none against. Three abstained.

"I invite you to build together our common European future," said Socialist Prime Minister Fatos Nano, a 44-year-old economist, thanking the legislature for its approval.

The Democratic Party of former President Sali Berisha, which won a meagre 29 seats in elections last month, continued its boycott of parliamentary proceedings.

Mr. Nano said the government's aim was to realise Albania's potential, "to change and really modernise this country."

"We should learn from the past but should not remain its slaves and victims," Mr. Nano said. "The best times for every Albanian and the nation lie in its future and not the past."

The international community, which helped Albania stage elections designed to end months of violent unrest, has said continuing a policy of national unity is a must if foreign aid is to be delivered.

More than 1,500 people have been killed in the backward, formerly Stalinist state since chaos erupted following the collapse of Pyramid investment schemes in March.

Ten people have died in the past 24 hours in shootings involving some of the roughly one million looted guns.

The violence brought down the Democratic Party government and led to early elections in June in which the democrats lost out heavily to the socialists. The result also led to the downfall of Berisha, who resigned last week.

Interior Minister Neritan Ceka said the police would first try to reclaim highways from gangsters preying on travellers, then move to crack down on criminals who are using some southern towns as personal fiefdoms.

But the government faces a mammoth task to restore peace, particularly in the south and the Adriatic port of Vlore, where protests over failed investment schemes spiralled into anarchy. Another gang shoot-out erupted in Vlore Tuesday.

The withdrawal from Vlore of Italian and Greek troops, sent to Albania in March as part of a multinational security force, has left the town at the mercy of gangs which have taken to bathing again by day in addition to overnight.

Mr. Ceka said police were badly in need of bullet-proof vests and other equipment that would be some of the main priorities raised at initial talks in Rome Wednesday ahead of an aid conference scheduled for October.

Addressing parliament for the first time Monday, Prime Minister Fatos Nano painted a bleak economic picture.

He pledged a campaign to halt a further erosion of Gross Domestic Product as well as soaring inflation, expected to reach up to 50 per cent by the end of 1997.

Albania hopes to sign either a one-year stand-by agreement or a three-year agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by the end of 1997, Finance Minister Arben Malaj said.

Mr. Malaj, a Socialist, told parliament that an IMF team would visit Albania in early August.



Helicopter pilot Lieutenant Colonel Horn Sophal (left), one of four Cambodian air force helicopter crewmembers who were part of an ill-fated mission organised by Prince Norodom Ranariddh to negotiate with Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge guerrillas, speaks at a press conference as Captain Kim Kosal looks on in Phnom Penh July 30, after their release from 5 months in prison (Reuters photo)

More troubles lie ahead for Hong Kong

HONG KONG (R) — A landmark court ruling that upheld the legality of a China-appointed legislature has undermined Hong Kong's autonomy after its return to Chinese rule, legal experts said Wednesday.

Fresh legal challenges lie ahead for the Provisional Legislative Council (PLC), which has been making laws since China resumed sovereignty barely a month ago.

An appeals court quashed a challenge to the PLC Tuesday and ruled it was legitimately created by China's parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC).

A panel of three judges said Hong Kong courts had no power to rule on the legality of the PLC because it was appointed by the NPC, and ruled that pre-handover laws were still in force after Britain handed its former colony back to China on July 1.

The historic ruling in the case, which sprung from a criminal conspiracy trial, has rescued the post-colonial government from a potential constitutional crisis — at least for the time being, but possibly not for long.

Defence lawyers in the criminal case argued that the British common law lapsed with the handover and that the new legislature had failed to adopt pre-handover laws, creating a legal vacuum.

Hong Kong University

Law Professor Yash Ghai said the court had handed over to China Hong Kong's right to a high degree of autonomy, a promise enshrined in the Sino-British handover treaty, the joint declaration. The promise had sprung from China's late paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, who espoused a "one country, two systems" formula in China's handling of Hong Kong after the handover.

"(It) has effectively denied any special status for Hong Kong within the constitutional and legal system of China," Mr. Ghai wrote in the South China Morning Post. "Few would have expected such a rapid demise of 'one country, two systems'."

Another law professor, Peter Wesley-Smith, said the rule of law and the duty of courts to uphold Hong Kong's constitution, the basic law, stood in jeopardy.

"They've abandoned legal arguments. They've said there is a sovereign entity in the new system, the NPC, and the courts are helpless in front of it," Mr. Smith said. "I don't think that shows respect for the rule of law or the promises made."

But Provisional Legislator Selina Chow, also a member of the pro-business Liberal Party, welcomed the ruling as necessary for Hong Kong "to get on with life," and the PLC.

"The judgement has a positive effect for our future because without it, the dispute can go on and on as it has for the last few months, which is not doing Hong Kong any good," Ms. Chow said. "We should get settled and forget about all these disputes."

Tsang Yok-Shing of the pro-China Party Democratic Alliance for the betterment of Hong Kong, said that, "provided the ruling is not overturned by the court of final appeal, other courts should not continue to challenge the legal status of the PLC."

The court decision dominated the front pages and editorials of Hong Kong newspapers, many of which predicted more challenges ahead for the PLC, first of all arising from a new immigration law that threatens to deport young Chinese immigrants.

A cartoon in the post had PLC Speaker Rita Fan celebrating with champagne on a balcony of the chamber and looking askance as a fellow legislator whispers to her, "one down, more to come?"

"The government won a legal battle yesterday, but it has not yet won the war," the Hong Kong Standard newspaper said.

"The status of the PLC would again be questioned when the right of abode of illegal immigrant children is heard next month," the Economic Times said.

Cambodian rebels say Pol Pot is finished, Hun Sen is a threat

PHNOM PENH (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrilla radio said Wednesday that rebel leader, Pol Pot was completely finished and the main barrier to peace in Cambodia was now Second Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The clandestine radio, for years the propaganda mouthpiece of the Maoist movement, applauded the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the international community for opposing Mr. Hun Sen's July 6 ouster of his co-premier.

"The Pol Pot regime is completely finished. The whole world knows that clearly," said the broadcast monitored in Phnom Penh.

"The whole world can see clearly that the main obstacle to solving the Cambodian crisis is the Vietnamese communists and Hun Sen. It is not Pol Pot," the radio said.

The radio announced last Saturday that Pol Pot had been condemned and sentenced to life in detention for his crimes against the people and the nation.

Pol Pot masterminded the 1975-79 "killing fields" regime during which more than one million Cambodians died of disease, starvation, hard labour or were executed.

Wednesday's broadcast was the latest in a series of attacks on Mr. Hun Sen, whom the rebels deride as a "puppet" of Vietnam.

Mr. Hun Sen led Cambodia's Hanoi-backed government through the 1980s and formed a coalition government with First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh after U.N.-supervised elections in 1993, which the Prince narrowly won.

Mr. Hun Sen ousted Prince Ranariddh after two days of fighting in Phnom Penh early this month. Mr. Hun Sen said he was forced to take action because the Prince was bringing defectors from the Khmer Rouge into the capital to strengthen his forces.

Khmer Rouge radio Wednesday thanked the international community for opposing Mr. Hun Sen's takeover.

"The Cambodian nation and people express deep thanks to ASEAN and the international community...who agree with each other to oppose the fascist coup of the Vietnamese Communists and the puppet Hun Sen and take diplomatic, economic and financial measures to condemn the coup," Wednesday's broadcast said.

ASEAN postponed Cambodia's membership in the grouping indefinitely in response to Prince Ranariddh's ouster and the United States suspended its aid to Cambodia for 30 days.

Wednesday's broadcast appeared to be another attempt by the Khmer Rouge to convince the world that the hated Pol Pot was really finished.

American journalist Nate Thayer of the Far Eastern Economic Review witnessed Pol Pot's show trial Friday. Video footage that he took of the trial, aired by ABC-news, shows a white-haired and frail Pol Pot watching the proceedings with apparent disinterest.

Mr. Hun Sen dismissed Pol Pot's trial as a political game. Some political analysts said the guerrillas who broke with Pol Pot were hoping to strike a deal with Prince Ranariddh's royalist troops, who have been clashing intermittently with Mr. Hun Sen's forces since Prince Ranariddh's ouster.

"The trial is meant to tell the world that Pol Pot is over so there's no need for an international trial and everyone will forget about him," a Thai general monitoring Cambodian politics told Reuters in Thailand.

"It was a show trial so the rest of the Khmer Rouge can join the royalists in fighting Hun Sen," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said in Singapore Tuesday that Pol Pot was a war criminal who must face a trial that was internationally acceptable.

Ms. Albright said U.S. officials were "exploring different ways to ensure that whatever trial there is, is appropriate, legal and valid in terms of the international community."

Meanwhile four pilots held for five months by the notorious Khmer Rouge in a malarial corner of Cambodia said Wednesday they thought they would be killed after 10 colleagues were shot in an ambush.

The pilots, three of whom flew into Phnom Penh Tuesday after their families gave them up for dead, had flown a government negotiating team to a northern Khmer Rouge stronghold to pick up defectors from the Maoist guerrilla movement.

But the mission went disastrously wrong when 10 members of the 15-strong team were gunned down in the jungle minutes after being embraced by the Khmer Rouge officers who had welcomed them to the area, they said.

"When our helicopter landed, the Khmer Rouge embraced the deputy governor of Siem Reap province (the team leader) and the negotiators and then took 10 of them to the jungle," Commander Horn Sophal told a news conference.

"After that I heard gunfire from everywhere," he said. "I could not see the bullets but I heard heavy firing."

"Two of the Khmer Rouge who had stayed behind ran to our helicopter and asked us to turn off the engines which we had left running."

"We refused, they pointed their guns at us and confiscated all weapons in the helicopter and tied our hands," he said as he sat dressed in an air force uniform along with three of his escaped comrades.

The four air force officers and a negotiator, who has not returned here, were among the relatively small number of people kidnapped by the often ruthless Khmer Rouge rebels to live to tell their story, observers said.

The five were freed by the Khmer Rouge on July 6 after being held near the village where shadowy Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot was seen by a foreigner last week for the first time in nearly two decades.

Key figure in Mexican army drug scandal murdered

GUADALAJARA (R) — A woman recently identified as a key link between allegedly corrupt Mexican army officials and drug traffickers was murdered Tuesday, officials said.

Irma Lizeth Ibarra Navaja, a 44-year-old lawyer, was gunned down by a man riding a motorcycle at a street corner in the western city of Guadalajara, authorities said. She later died in a hospital.

Her murder is the latest twist in a saga linking Mexico's armed forces to the multimillion-dollar illegal drug trade, after the army had been given a much higher profile in the war on drugs in recent months.

Witnesses said Ibarra arrived at the intersection in a gray pickup truck when "a subject travelling on a motorcycle shot a firearm."

Hours after the Proceso report appeared, the army admitted that 34 mostly retired officers have been arrested this year "for their presumed responsibility in

returned fire, police said. "He's lucky because he usually doesn't go around with his security, but last night he did," Haitian National Police spokesman Felder Jean-Baptiste said.

President Rene Preval and his new wife went to visit the minister after the attack, police said.

Last week, Joseph Exume,

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"It was a show trial so the rest of the Khmer Rouge can join the royalists in fighting Hun Sen," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said in Singapore Tuesday that Pol Pot was a war criminal who must face a trial that was internationally acceptable.

Ms. Albright said U.S. officials were "exploring different ways to ensure that whatever trial there is, is appropriate, legal and valid in terms of the international community."

Meanwhile four pilots held for five months by the notorious Khmer Rouge in a malarial corner of Cambodia said Wednesday they thought they would be killed after 10 colleagues were shot in an ambush.

The pilots, three of whom flew into Phnom Penh Tuesday after their families gave them up for dead, had flown a government negotiating team to a northern Khmer Rouge stronghold to pick up defectors from the Maoist guerrilla movement.

But the mission went disastrously wrong when 10 members of the 15-strong team were gunned down in the jungle minutes after being embraced by the Khmer Rouge officers who had welcomed them to the area, they said.

"When our helicopter landed, the Khmer Rouge embraced the deputy governor of Siem Reap province (the team leader) and the negotiators and then took 10 of them to the jungle," Commander Horn Sophal told a news conference.

"After that I heard gunfire from everywhere," he said. "I could not see the bullets but I heard heavy firing."

"Two of the Khmer Rouge who had stayed behind ran to our helicopter and asked us to turn off the engines which we had left running."

"We refused, they pointed their guns at us and confiscated all weapons in the helicopter and tied our hands," he said as he sat dressed in an air force uniform along with three of his escaped comrades.

The four air force officers and a negotiator, who has not returned here, were among the relatively small number of people kidnapped by the often ruthless Khmer Rouge rebels to live to tell their story, observers said.

The five were freed by the Khmer Rouge on July 6 after being held near the village where shadowy Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot was seen by a foreigner last week for the first time in nearly two decades.

Her murder is the latest twist in a saga linking Mexico's armed forces to the multimillion-dollar illegal drug trade, after the army had been given a much higher profile in the war on drugs in recent months.

Witnesses said Ibarra arrived at the intersection in a gray pickup truck when "a subject travelling on a motorcycle shot a firearm."

Hours after the Proceso report appeared, the army admitted that 34 mostly retired officers have been arrested this year "for their presumed responsibility in

returned fire, police said. "He's lucky because he usually doesn't go around with his security, but last night he did," Haitian National Police spokesman Felder Jean-Baptiste said.

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Albright leaves Asia after blast at Mahathir

SINGAPORE (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright headed home from Singapore Wednesday after a visit to southeast Asia during which she brushed off criticisms of the west by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

"I think that Dr. Mahathir is a case of his own," she said after major regional meetings in Malaysia which Mr. Mahathir opened with an attack on "unscrupulous" Western currency speculators.

Ms. Albright said she felt she had struck a resonant chord among ASEAN foreign ministers at the

Malaysia meetings, adding that not all members of Mr. Mahathir's generation of leaders in their seventies shared his perspective.

"I think, frankly, that I articulated what some of them had been thinking and were more willing to admit than I had expected that the process in Burma had been slower than they would have liked," she told reporters Tuesday.

The U.S. has urged faster progress on democracy and human rights in Burma, which was formally admitted into the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) along with Laos on July 23.

Ms. Albright was in Singapore for less than 24 hours after the ASEAN conferences. She met with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Foreign Minister Sharanmugam Jayakumar and former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

She cited talks Tuesday with Mr. Lee — himself a frequent critic of the West in general and the U.S. in particular — as a highlight of her Asian tour.

Ms. Albright and Singapore officials said the visit had strengthened bilateral ties, although she did raise human rights issues with Mr. Goh.

Blazing Croat resort island imposes state of emergency

ZAGREB (R) — Firefighters struggled to contain a huge forest fire on the Croatian resort island of Hvar and authorities have imposed a state of emergency in the popular Adriatic holiday destination, state radio said Tuesday.

The flames, whipped by strong winds, had swallowed almost 1,500 hectares of pine forest, brush and lavender fields since the fire broke out around midday Monday, it said.

"The fire has not yet been brought under control although we are doing what we can to contain it," a police official in the town of Hvar told Reuters by telephone.

Several of the 500 firemen were said to have sustained minor injuries in the morning.

Russian government faces 'total war' from media backers

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian government faced a growing crisis Tuesday as media run by powerful businessmen who backed Boris Yeltsin's re-election campaign turned on top ministers, accusing them of corruption in the sale of state assets.

Boris Nemtsov, the young reformer and possible presidential contender, was singled out for attack after Friday's sale of a quarter of the state telephone company. He hit back at his critics, accusing them of "bandit capitalism" and "blackmail by media."

"Total information war" was business daily Kommersant's view of the mudslinging after a consortium led by banker and former cabinet minister, Vladimir Potanin, 36, and including U.S. financier, George Soros, won the share tender for Svyazinvest.

Kremlin sources said containing the feud was a priority for the government and for Mr. Nemtsov's fellow First Deputy Premier Anatoly Chubais, the powerful economic reform chief who ran Mr. Yeltsin's campaign.

The row has destroyed any semblance of solidarity among the group of businessmen who quietly rallied their media muscle and money behind Mr. Yeltsin to prevent a communist victory last July.

Insiders say their reward was state assets at knock-down prices. But relations among them have worsened, with several disputes over murky state auctions ending up in the courts.

Most worrying now for ministers, one political source said, was that so many big banking and media interests were lining up against the government and Mr. Potanin, the head of Unexim Bank.

Mr. Nemtsov, in an interview published Tuesday by a newspaper in which Mr. Potanin has a stake, said the government was determined it would no longer share out "free assets" among the "group of seven bankers." Some of them might therefore try to force him from office, he said, or cut a deal with the opposition.

"They are going to fight us with all they have. Right up to us having to quit," Mr. Nemtsov told Kommersant's Pravda. "The interests of some finance-media groups could merge with the interests of the Communists and fascists."

Mr. Nemtsov, a telegenic 37-year-old liberal, was summoned by Mr. Yeltsin to clean up government and the economy in March.

"When I started work, the president and I agreed ... There would be no more bandit capitalism," Mr. Nemtsov told reporters in the central city of Cheboksary Tuesday. "We will take a civilised path and will hold honest sales of state

assets."

Mr. Nemtsov said Mr. Potanin's group won the Svyazinvest auction fairly with the highest bid. It would allow the government to pay its wage debts to doctors and soldiers. But the losers, he alleged, had wanted an old-style backroom carve-up on the cheap.

Senior political sources said the losing consortium was led by Russian tycoons Vladimir Gusinsky, who controls NTV television and Sevodnya newspaper, and Boris Berezovsky.

Mr. Berezovsky said he suspended his business interests when Mr. Yeltsin named him to the Kremlin Security Council last December. His empire includes Nezavisimaya Gazeta daily and a large stake in ORT television, in which the state also owns 51 per cent.

Mr. Berezovsky has not commented on the Svyazinvest deal. Mr. Gusinsky's Most group hotly rejected

Mr. Nemtsov's allegations. NTV, ORT, Nezavisimaya and Sevodnya carried bitter attacks on Mr. Potanin, Mr. Nemtsov and Privatisation Minister Alfred Kokh.

NTV, which has generally supported the liberal reforms, said unnamed bankers were using privatisation to raise funds for a presidential campaign by Mr. Nemtsov in the year 2000. "Everyone needs money but above all those who thirst for power need it."

ORT television presenter Sergei Dorenko told Kommersant Tuesday that Mr. Nemtsov was "twitching" like a "cockroach."

A senior government source said Mr. Chubais personally turned down pleas from Mr. Berezovsky and Mr. Gusinsky that they be awarded Svyazinvest. "Chubais told them those days are over," he said.

The media have yet to attack Mr. Chubais, however.

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U.S. expected to act wisely

WASHINGTON APPEARS poised for a game of Russian roulette with the Palestinians by hinting that it may not be able to extend the law that allowed it to contact and deal with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). The U.S. State Department is sending signals that under the prevailing conditions it cannot certify that the PNA is fulfilling its obligations as stipulated in the Oslo accords. While it is possible that the Palestinians are unable to implement everything asked of them as per the accords, this is the worst possible time to tighten the noose around their necks. Whatever is the extent of the PNA's non-observance of the peace agreements with Israel, it is marginal in comparison with Israel's repudiation of the most basic elements in the agreements. Had the U.S. chosen to apply meaningful sanctions against Israel for continuing its colonisation of Palestinian lands and clear denunciation of all the salient features of the accords, we may perhaps understand President Clinton's decision to use his clout against the parties in order to move them closer to an early agreement on all outstanding issues.

The PNA is beleaguered by an expanding set of factors both internal and external that render it most vulnerable. To weaken it even further, without a viable Palestinian authority in place, would mean that the much awaited peace talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis will never come to fruition.

Washington is expected to act prudently and wisely whenever an opportunity presents itself for applying pressure on the concerned parties in an even and balanced manner. The Clinton administration is therefore called upon to race against time and extend the necessary legislation so that the peace process may be saved yet another hurdle.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Dustour expressed the view that despite a decision by the Muslim Brotherhood and the Islamic Action Front Party to boycott the 1997 elections, the elections will take place as the majority of people are convinced of the need to pursue the path of democracy. Mohammad Daoud said that with the exception of the Islamists, the other political parties carry no real weight to influence the public and persuade people to refrain from voting. Even the Muslim Brotherhood has lost much of its lustre in the wake of reports about internal splits and divisions, on the one hand, and due to their failure in the past to influence the government's actions or persuade the government to rescind temporary laws or scrap Jordan's peace treaty with Israel, according to the writer. He said the Islamic movement has lost much of its popularity and credibility for its failure to force the government to change its position on many issues and, therefore, this movement is most unlikely to influence the public and convince it to remain away from the polling stations in November. The Islamists' call for the boycott, said the writer, has, to date, failed even to convince all the opposition parties to follow their example, as these parties are still studying the situation and hoping to hold a dialogue with the government to reach a compromise and a way out of the present deadlock.

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily reflected on the rejoicing witnessed in Jordan over the national soccer team's success in winning the gold in the Pan-Arab Games. Fahed Fanek said the success of the team was instrumental in uniting the Jordanian people and in displaying cohesion and unity in a manner not seen for over 30 years. People instantly went out into the streets and public squares, cheering and dancing all night to celebrate the victory, and the national teams were showered with gifts and financial donations from different companies and organisations, noted the writer. He said that the success fused the people of Jordan of various origins in a united national cast, with affiliation to the Jordanian identity. The scene of rejoicing resembled that which overwhelmed the Jordanians in the wake of the Karameh battle when all citizens of Jordan were swept by pride and euphoria on seeing their armed forces achieve a great feat on the battleground, the writer added. The fact that the teams and the general public congratulated the King on this success reflected the true feeling of the people towards their leader who acts as a symbol of national unity, according to the writer. He said national unity is enhanced and patriotism is strengthened when achievements in the economic, social, political and sports fields are achieved.

View from Academia

Our behaviour in good and bad times

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

OCCASIONS, HAPPY or sad, in our part of the world bring out the best in us, and the worst. Such duality—sensitivity, generosity, altruism, sacrifice and support on the one hand, and selfishness, carelessness, irresponsibility, rudeness and even meanness on the other—is reflected in nearly all occasions: hirths, circumcisions, weddings, outings, sports competitions, elections, festivals, funerals, crises, etc.

Take the two occasions which attracted public attention in the past two weeks: the announcement of the tawjihi results and the triumph of the Jordanian soccer team in Lebanon.

Both are occasions which call for some rejoice and celebration. Despite our reservations about the tawjihi (the trauma it puts students and parents through before, during and after the announcement of results; the somewhat unfair principle of deciding the fate of an individual student on the basis of one grade, determined by one exam at the end of twelve years of study; the pain it causes to those students who either get less than they expect or fail one year after another, etc.), those who pass it successfully (and are happy with the result they get) have the right to celebrate. After all, they have worked hard, have been subjected to immense pressure, have been through something unprecedented, unique and important. For those who pass successfully and satisfactorily, there is a sense of achievement and a real cause for rejoice.

As for the victory of the Jordanian soccer team (and that of the other gold, silver and bronze medalists), it is not a normal event. The team had many problems in the past and, most often, disappointed us in both pan-Arab and international competitions. Lebanon was not only a happy exception to many disappointing performances in the past and a story of success, it also epitomised and incarnated what we have been desiring for decades. It seems that wise management (rare in this part of the world), thorough preparation and determination based on hard work and sweat have finally paid off. The team did not only win; it won deservedly. Unlike in most games in the past, it played beautifully and we derived real joy watching. This is the level of performance we want.

The two occasions have also shown us, as in the case of many other occasions, a nice, praiseworthy aspect of our society and culture. With respect to the tawjihi, such nicety is reflected in the genuine support relatives and friends show to those students who pass successfully and (in many cases) to those who do not make it. There is a real sense of solidarity which is unforgettable.

The same sense of solidarity and support have emerged strongly (though this time at the national level) in the aftermath of the victory of the soccer team. The solidarity and victory are not only visible in the many spontaneous forms of celebration that took place afterwards, but in the many donations which individuals and institutions pledged to the betterment of the lot of sports in our part of the world.

Such happy image and such positive behaviour, however, have been immensely undercut by a negative, subversive and harmful form of rejoice expressed equally fully in both occasions: namely, the shooting of bullets. The morning the tawjihi results were announced and the evening the soccer team won the championship one thought one was on a battlefield: the sounds of bullets whizzing and guns and automatic rifles thundering.

I am not going to echo here the sentiments of the majority: condemnation of the habit as "uncivilised" because such sentiment has been fully expressed, whether in informal gatherings or formally through the media. What I wish to emphasise is the harm that has been done: the death and injury of some people and the fright of others. There have been casualties: individuals sitting comfortably in their verandas or rooms receiving stray bullets. Several people closed windows and shutters for hours and prevented their children, and themselves, either from going out or from looking outside windows.

Clearly, there is an irony here: celebration is supposed to

be a time of happiness and fun, not death, injury or fright. The more important thing to emphasise here is the fact that we have been condemning this bad habit (of shooting bullets) for decades. It was, as far as I personally remember, an issue in the sixties, seventies, eighties and nineties of this century. Do not shoot bullets; it is not a civilised habit; it causes harm to others; we appeal to our citizens to exercise care and caution or refrain from practising this habit. All these statements, we have been hearing for decades now.

Well, it is obvious that we have failed to tackle this problem and to solve it. In fact, this bad habit seems to be thriving and prospering as time goes. It is also obvious that our approach to it has not been successful. Appeals to the conscience of our citizens (whether it is about shooting bullets, conserving water, or safe motoring) clearly do not bring about results. So, what officials as well institutions concerned want to do? Clearly, we need to change our approach. Preaching does not seem to work.

I believe that such a practice is a serious violation and crime: against the safety, security, privacy of the majority. I do not believe that there is an ultimate difference between a person who aims bullets at others deliberately (a robber, a kidnapper, an assassin, etc.) and one who shoots at random and kills, injures, or scares others. The outcome is the same.

What is most upsetting perhaps is that while bullet shooters are considered violators, deranged people, or criminals in others societies, in ours (despite our condemnation of the act) they are considered normal people. This is scary.

I wish that in this society of ours, at this point in time, we say something, follow it through, implement it, and do it effectively. Can't we really (I mean, can't our concerned institutions) bring an end to this habit if they seriously want? I believe they can. But there has been more lip-service and boring preaching than actual work and forceful implementation of the law.

In Israel 'old style' army-worship is waning

By G. H. Jansen

HUNDREDS OF 18-year-old Israeli secondary school leavers are converging on army recruitment centres for the annual summer conscript draft. And one year after the army registered a dramatic drop in recruit motivation, 80 per cent are requesting combat units. The army command credits the revival in motivation to a publicity campaign the army, the most important institution in the Jewish state, felt compelled to launch since last summer.

In a penetrating and analytical paper on "The Role of the Army in Israeli Jewish Society" delivered in May this year to the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) in London, the Israeli polymath, Dr. Israel Shahak, professor emeritus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, made some very important and salient points. Salient because, as the doctor correctly remarked, it is impossible to understand the Israeli Jewish society unless you know about the army.

Truth telling has made Dr. Shahak, perhaps, the least popular member of that society. He is tolerated only because of his intellectual brilliance and because he is a survivor of the Nazi death camp at Belson; his death camp number is tattooed on the inside of his left arm. This is his passport to respectability and proof of Jewish inalienability. But his death camp experiences have not made him immune to criticism.

Dr. Shahak's main contention is that Israel, where he has chosen to live and work for the past 55 years, is not the liberal open-minded state he would like it to be. And the main reason why Israel is not liberal is that it is an excessively militarised state where the upper and middle classes and the intellectual elite indulge in what he calls "army-worship" which he roundly condemns. Indeed, it is a matter of honour for members of the elite to volunteer for the most selective of the elite units in the armed forces. He grades these as follows: paratroops and commandos; artillery and armour; infantry, preferably, the better known

units such as the Golani and Givati brigades to which are assigned the most difficult and dangerous tasks and which take the heaviest casualties; frontier guards; administrative units.

The Israeli army is a distinctive combination of compulsion and volunteer service. National service—three years for men and two years for women—is compulsory, but once enrolled the soldier can volunteer for service in the various units. Not all are accepted for service in an elite unit, only about one in 20. They must pass a series of stringent and even brutal physical and mental tests over many months. As a result, even trying to become an elite soldier is considered to be a privilege and an honour.

Acceptance carries enormous prestige in Israeli Jewish society while failure to pass selection is punished in such a way as to inflict the maximum humiliation on the candidate. The quality of the unit the soldier has served in during his army career governs the rest of his life, including university entrance, job or marriage.

To be described as "an elite soldier" is equivalent in Israeli Jewish society to bolder a title of knighthood. Which is why all officers of higher rank, and all commanders of units, large or small, wear paratroopers wings, even if they are not paratroopers.

An Israeli novelist has written of the self-contented primitivism produced by passing these tests: "The enjoyment of such strains and humiliations points to a streak of masochism buried in the heart of the Israeli Jewish male."

The basic training and testing may last nine months but can be as long as 18 months. The entire process is kept strictly secret so that the rest of the world, and especially the Arabs, remain ignorant of the sort of soldier the Israeli army produces: hard and brutal because that is what he has been trained to be. The training of the Israeli combat soldier rests on the same operative rules that the Israeli army applies to Palestinians living under occupation: collective punishment, humiliation and physical pressure.

this army training is played by sleep deprivation and food deprivation. Training in some units begins with a week during which the soldier is not allowed to sleep at all: so that soldiers say they go through the training "in a haze." And food deprivation is no less severe: the prevailing impression of the training period for the Israeli soldier is one of being continuously hungry—followed by abundant good food after the training period. It is no wonder that a favourite form of punishment imposed on the Palestinians is "closure" and blockade when provisions are stopped at the border of the enclaves so food is in short supply for the whole community.

The end result of this sort of training is nothing less than a "personality change." For the combat soldiers undergoing training, war is welcome as a release from the hardship of training. To shake off the effects of this army "education" and its sadomasochistic tendencies many Israeli soldiers choose to travel abroad to remote areas—India and the hinterland of China are current favourites.

The fact that the youth of Israel voluntarily submits to the rigours of this sort of training "perhaps constitutes the greatest strength of the Israeli army," says Dr. Shahak. He also speaks of certain general characteristics of the army as a whole which are noteworthy. There is the enormous length of time Israelis spend in the army in addition to the three years of national service. Reserve service is supposed to last 30 days a year but can be extended to 135 days, even for university students. According to the lowest estimate, a Jewish male "civilian" from the middle and upper class can spend four to seven years of his adult life in the reserves after his compulsory three-year service. And some Israelis may even spend 7-15 years in the army. This naturally affects the quality of the whole Israeli society. Similarly, more money is spent on the army during peace time than when there is a threat of war.

Paradoxically, the period of service becomes longer when a threat to Israel is diminished by a

victory. For example, after the 1973 war, Israel kept half a million soldiers, conscripts as well as reservists, mobilised for six months. This makes it obvious that the claims about "threats to the very existence of the Jewish state" are so much propaganda.

After the 1973 war, the Israeli army was transformed by a massive infusion of U.S. cash and materiel. Israel increased expenditure even for wars which it did not fight—like the Iraq-Iran war—and after the "peace" reached with the Palestinians and Jordan. The Israeli army also incorporated U.S. doctrine along with U.S. equipment, to its detriment. For it is no longer the fighting force it once was. Part of the problem is affluence, part is that many Israelis are not convinced of the need to maintain the occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan and southern Lebanon. And there is the fact that surviving army training and securing a place in an elite unit has become an end in itself. The men want to be in a combat unit but not fight and die for their country.

As a result, old style army-worship is waning. For example, the Israelis did not defeat the Palestinians during the intifada. Regular Israeli troops are doing badly in current confrontations in Gaza, the West Bank and southern Lebanon because troops recoil from face-to-face encounters and the army command is less efficient. While the officer corps grew it became bureaucratized: the number of colonels per 10,000 lower ranks is twice as many in the Israeli army as in the U.S. army. This means that Israel now has an officer caste. And a well-paid one at that. More than half of military expenditure is on salaries and pensions. This can be attributed to lavish military aid which has made Israel not stronger but weaker.

Indeed, when it comes to face-to-face confrontation between Israeli and Arab soldiers on the field of battle, it is the Arabs who do better because, according to the Napoleonic dictum, "in war the spiritual is to the material as three to one."

LETTERS

Well done!

To the editor:

I, AND many of my friends, would like to congratulate and thank the Jordan Times for the great job it did in covering the Pan-Arab Games.

The newspaper's coverage was of particular help to those who could not go attend the games or watch them live on TV.

I would also like to take the occasion and extend congratulations to Jordan's national soccer team for its achievement as well as to all the athletes who made Jordanians proud.

Rima Chadrichi,
Amman.

Sorrow in happiness

To the Editor:

THERE ARE numerous ways in which a person can express feelings of happiness and joy. Recently Jordan has witnessed some occasions calling for celebration: tawjihi results were released and many students who passed it had reason to be happy, including parents, family members and friends. Those happy and proud people wanted to express their happiness; unfortunately, of all the ways to express their emotions, they chose the worst and most dangerous: firing bullets into the air. Some bullets ended up harming innocent people.

On July 27, Jordan's soccer team won the gold medal at the Pan-Arab Games in Beirut. The pride I felt seeing my country's flag high in the skies of Lebanon was more than words could express. How did I express my happiness? Just like any rational human being would: I broke into tears, I clapped and congratulating everyone around me. I did not go out in the streets firing bullets because I thought that the happiness of some should not cause the sorrow of others.

Jomana W. Karadsheh,
Amman.

Will to win

To the Editor:

WINNING THE final soccer game at the Pan-Arab Games proved again that the most important ingredient in any achievement lies within us, the people.

We always attribute the success of other nations to their natural resources, and we totally ignore that people are the most valuable resource for any nation. The game proved that the willingness of the national team to win was enough to make them win, even when knowing that the other team is better prepared, better trained and better equipped for such competitions.

The Kingdom's team selection was based on talent, qualifications and the players' own abilities to perform. Commanding such a performance is attributed to placing the right person in the right place, thus providing results that were exemplary to everyone involved, to the satisfaction of the country as a whole.

Congratulations to the team for such a proud and momentous victory.

Samer F. Qubain,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any issue they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld upon request but only under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing and abridging.

Society on the Move

Scholarship & sportsmanship — a healthy mix

Scholarship and sports are the news this week. Starting with the Higher Council for Science and Technology, where Osama Khalidi has been made a member of the council, those close to the situation say he is the maestro who will bring the orchestra into harmony. Last spring when Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali brought then HCST Secretary General Hani Malki to head the large Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, two in-house officials were named to split his responsibilities. Khaled Shreideh was charged with the scientific guardianship, and Nancy Bakir with the administrative. Dr. Khalidi's mandate is to oversee the activities of the secretariat of the HCST. A low profile man, and a biochemist, Dr. Khalidi taught for 25 years at the American University of Beirut. His special interest lies in education, and thus he established the masters and doctoral programmes in biochemistry at AUB. Later he went to Bahrain and helped establish a new medical school which used the McMaster University system of teaching, that is, without lecturing. Dr. Khalidi also introduced new industries to Bahrain when he worked for the Gulf state's ministry of development. He is one of the founding members of the Royal Scientific Society and has written several articles and books in his field.

about matter Mr. Rimawi put his academic background to work in many areas. He has been highly active in the LSE Jordanian Society, particularly during his recent tenure as president. Mr. Rimawi, whose current Ph.D. research is on regulation of Arab securities markets, has written articles and letters to the editor in several leading British and Arab periodicals including *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *Al Quds Al Arabi* and *Al Husun*. He does this because he believes that Jordanian and Arab students abroad should work to convey a positive cultural message. "No respectable nation can just sit complaining that it is the hapless victim of superior adversaries," says Mr. Rimawi.

MIND YOUR LANGUAGE: The University of Jordan English Department is gearing up for the first International Conference on Arabic-English Contrastive and Comparative Studies, to be held on campus from August 28-29. Focus will be on Arabic and Western literatures — a cross cultural approach; Arabic-English contrastive and inter-language studies — state of the art; and the teaching of translation — academic versus professional. For Professor Lewis Mugotash, chairman of the Department of English and the Conference Committee, the event provides a forum in which to convince the participants of the importance of furnishing an association for specialists in English language, literature, and translation at Arab universities, into this first-time conference into an annual event, and think of ways of fostering and upgrading the teaching of the three disciplines at all Arab universities. About 130 participants from Jordan, Palestine, the Arab World, and several Eastern and Western countries will take part in the various sessions, and about 110 studies will be presented at the conference.

GRAND STANDS: Anecdotes from the Pan-Arab Games are many, but two favorites follow.

Mohammad Abu Khadijeh, the boxer from the Baqaa refugee camp who won Jordan a gold medal in the heavyweight category, may have been somewhat taken aback when while in the arena fighting his Lebanese opponent, the Lebanese fans went so far as to threaten Khadijeh's life if he dared to win. The fight, which Khadijeh did in fact win and which qualified him for his gold medal bout, caused such a melee in the audience that the referee delayed announcing the result until emotions cooled down. But when Khadijeh stepped into the ring to face his final opponent, Mahdi Kahan of Syria, the Lebanese crowd was all manner of civility towards Khadijeh, this time outdoing themselves and tilling him "Monsieur" Khadijeh. The Baqaa boxer showed his sense of humor saying that after he won the gold he wanted to walk the streets of Beirut just to hear the Lebanese address him in an esteemed fashion.

It would seem that soccer player Jiryes Tadros, nicknamed "The Whisp" by teammates and fans, is on a winning streak in love, work and money. Tadros was engaged to be married shortly before leaving for the games in Beirut. Striking the winning (and only) goal for Jordan in the final match against Syria, where sportsmanship on one side of the stands was evidently absent, Tadros and his teammates arrived back in Amman Monday to a heroes welcome. And now a commercial wedding hall is offering their facility in Tadros and his bride-to-be "on the house." But what of his other National Team buddies who were also engaged shortly before the games? Actually the entire team is fairing well, as are Jordan's other medalists from the games, with pledges of gifts from such appreciative private firms as Fastluc, Swatch, and the Middle East Insurance Company, and from Amman businessperson Zuhair Beirut.

Today, HRH Crown Prince Hassan hosts a luncheon in honor of all the athletes, coaches and officials who participated in the games at Sports City. The unity in celebrating the Jordanian teams' victories sparked in every part of community in the Kingdom will be cheered as well.

BATTER UP: Amman Little League's 12-14-year-olds team returned last week from their first time try at the Middle East-European Baseball Tournament, perhaps not as champions, but certainly somewhat more seasoned in the high stakes sport of fly-balls, fouls and home-runs. The tournament was held in Kuono, Poland, said to be the centre of Europe. Amman Little League usually sends its senior team to the tournament, but this year the younger rookies seemed more adept around the diamond field, and so it was their turn up at bat. On the team, whose travel expenses were shared by parents and the ALL, were: Taha Abu Nadi, Amer Daher, Salih Bazian, Chris Crane, Gory Culbert, Lewis Culbert, Omar Darwish, Roni Jundi, Zaid Kassis, Jazai Kulkhala, David Keifer, Omar Maadi, Leith Masarweh, and Ramzi Mulk. Coaches accompanying the young athletes were Gory Culbert, a consultant engineer for King Hussein Medical Centre, David Burns, a media specialist, and John Keifer from the U.S. embassy. Ramzi Masarweh, general manager of the Dunes Club and vice president of the ALL, was the team's Jordanian representative and Sonia Culbert had the coveted position of "team mom." The boys came home with the experience of playing on natural grass, under lights and in front of 2,000 spectators, all to their advantage for the next international games, wherever they may be. Bark at home, aside from practice and games, the ALL is still working to complete the ballpark facility on the plot presented by HRH Princess Basma through a donation from the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development. They are three-quarters of the way towards raising the necessary funds.

CONGRATS NATS! Marriage is still in fashion it seems as we learned of the upcoming engagement of a former J.T. freelance reporter. Amman correspondent far DPA and ANSA, the German and Italian news agencies, Notasha Boukhari, is to wed Leith Dujaili, a recent team member of the international courier service Arames. Their engagement is to be feted in early September.

UNDER STARLIGHT: A new restaurant, akin in style to those in the mountains of Beirut, has opened under the proprietorship of Suzanne Abu Jaber, Road Himmoudi and Ghassan Al Kurd. The house actually started as a small tent, expanded into a bigger tent and then into a weekend chateau for Ms. Abu Jaber and her family. Now with an added commercial kitchen, Ms. Abu Jaber put her professional interior decorating talents to work and her drive for providing good food with good service into an indoor-outdoor establishment serving international and Arabic cuisine. Afternoon tea is also served — best in the tree garden. On the floor plan for the future is a cave for the younger set with live music and easy snacks. Located in Yammouneh, it is reached by the same route leading to Kan Zannan, and there are signs to guide you. Enjoy!!!

Jennifer Hamarnesh

SAY AH: Westward across the Atlantic, the Harvard School of Dental Medicine has presented Jordanian dentist Samer Zawaideh with its 1997 prize for scientific research. Dr. Zawaideh earned a BDS degree from the University of Jordan and was granted a US scholarship to continue his studies in dentistry at Harvard. Pursuing his masters at the Department of Orthodontics, he completed his thesis on a model for organ specificity of metastasis. At Harvard, Dr. Zawaideh was a member of the American Dentists Association, the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research, and the American Association of Orthodontics. In addition, he presented a course about the treatment of children and adolescents. Dr. Zawaideh has published two research papers on cancer in cooperation with other professors. He plans to continue his research at Harvard's Children's Hospital and work as an instructor of pediatric orthodontics at HMS. Dr. Zawaideh also intends to return to Jordan to pursue an academic career at his first alma mater.



Samer Zawaideh

WITH SOMETHING TO SAY: The most prestigious position that doctoral researchers at the London School of Economics can achieve is a tutorial fellowship, and one of two such awards this year was earned by Lujay Minver Rimawi, a Jordanian law graduate of Cambridge University and economics graduate of the LSE. J.T. readers will recognise his name as he occasionally contributes analytical articles in the op-ed pages. Mr. Rimawi was the only Arab among 40, mostly American and European, candidates competing for the fellowship. At his

Blond from Australian outback targets Asia

By James Flannery
Reuter

HONG KONG — Blond Kim Robinson, who grew up in Australia's rugged outback, has designs on Asian women — he wants to change their traditional beauty to an "international" look neither classic Eastern nor Western.

A renowned hair designer and beauty expert, Robinson insists Asia's women abandon Western-imposed dependency on unsuitable Nordic-type, blue-eyed icons. But he should they stick to their own ethnic heritage.

His style, promoted in Hong Kong and Singapore and planned for other capitals as well as New York and London, is an unclassifiable beauty makeover he calls global, in line with a general lowering of old cultural barriers in Asia.

Robinson's celebrity status among Hong Kong's rich society matrons or tai-tais (madame) brought demands for elaborate party styles for ceremonies surrounding Britain's handover of Hong Kong to China. These included a "dragon lady" look, reminiscent of

the 19th century Empress Dowager.

But generally his beauty approach, he says, reflects a mood: "Women now want to look good, not screaming to be seen."

Demand for Asian beauty that is not typecast

Scores of photographs line walls of his exclusive 1930's-Shanghai-style Orient Salon. The models are mainly Chinese but their beauty is of indeterminate origin at first glance.

They recall, say, a wind-blown but still-chic Audrey Hepburn at the height of the petite film star's fame.

With the straight black hair of Asia structurally fashioned and specially-designed make-up for the region's characteristic brown or olive skin, this is gamine beauty with a blurring of racial stereotypes.

Robinson's ideal Asian woman might just as easily seem to be from the Mediterranean as China's "middle kingdom" — both ancient civilisations saw themselves as the world centre.

Since an 18th-century Chinoiserie Vogue swept Europe, the West has tended from time to time to look east for inspiration in fashion and design. In a reverse appetite, Asians have looked West for trend-spotting.

The interchange became complex decades ago when the West went wild about a "China doll" haircut, a bob with a fringe influenced by flapper-era silent film star Louise Brooks.

"It worked well on some Chinese faces, though unfortunately it tends to make them rounded and full-faced," says Robinson.

"The thing at present is a partial return to permanent wave, a softer version we call the poetic movement. Some sections are curly. Some are 'less straight, so it gives a more casual look."

The London and Paris-trained Robinson, 40, who comes from a West Australian dairy farm — "two hours from city life" — says Asian women need their own role models and he's supplying them.

He understands the popularity of "skin-lightening" creams here, in

bizarre contrast to the Western woman's feverish hunt for suntans.

"The modern Asian woman is not looking to be white-skinned. What these products do is brighten the skin, make it look less intensive, give a luminous quality temporarily."

"Traditionally, a palish skin is (of) someone who didn't work in the fields and in every Asian country, the darker your skin, the more low-class you are. That's a cultural thing. It's not trying to look Western. It's to be more refined."

Hair seen boosting confidence

"Is hair design based on sexual allure? No, I can assure you," he laughs. "It's confidence, liking the way you look."

"We are in 1997, not in prehistoric years. Women live in big cities and are international. They don't look American or Puerto Rican or Japanese with Geisha hair. They don't 'belong' anymore. Every woman wants to be part of the international look. Asia's been bombarded with Western effigies for

years."

"Asians look at, say, the front cover of Vogue," says Robinson, whose business has also published an Asia-wide beauty magazine. "They might see deep-set eyes, a slim nose, small lips, chiselled, refined face ... How do you expect an Asian woman to feel who hasn't got those features?"

"It would make anyone feel unconfident, subservient. I am blond and blue-eyed but I understand how friends and clients feel — I speak Cantonese pretty fluently. It's sickening. Almost."

"Asian women want an international look. These are women who may have noodles for breakfast, watch CNN Television and a fashion show in the evenings. They want new styles for hair and make-up that works with their

skin."

His chain has developed hair-styling and cosmetics adapted to each area of Asia where skin texture, hair quality, and head shapes vary because of diet, climate and ethnic origin.

"Hair for a woman is a frame for the face. Classic chic is what we supply. I don't do purple-green hair for real women. I have to invent something — it's not just trimming the ends off."

His senior make-up expert Alice So says: "Asian women love to wear make-up but sometimes because of colour (errors) everything is wrong like a mask. They give up. I choose colours carefully. Asian women must look beautiful and believable. We just modify."

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

The willing contemplation of vice is vice.

— Arabic proverb.

He who is firmly seated in authority soon learns to think security, and not progress, is the highest lesson of power.

— James Russell Lowell, American critic and essayist (1819-1892).



Man!! Akram Masarweh's feet smell!

WHEN I went to the Jerash Festival this year, I was very thoughtful. Because I knew no one would pinch me as they did Amy (on the count of double standards and chauvinistic inequality) I poured my attention on the historical value of the place. What would have happened if the Romans had never left Jordan and decided to hang around until now? Would there have been stalls all over the Kingdom selling Spaghetti Ala Mansaf to be eaten with the fork and hand instead of fork and spoon? Would men still be walking around bare-legged, and if so, would they have started a trend to shave their legs? Would there have been free mixed public baths downtown Amman instead of the public toilets that charge entrance fees?

Just as I started to enjoy the pain shooting from my base all the way up my spine and into my head (resulting from the Roman style seating readily available at the festival) a notion struck me! How come Akram Masarweh is so comfortable at Jerash standing, walking or sitting down? How come he has managed to turn all this Roman stone and brought about such a successful event every year? Could it be possible he has Roman blood running through his veins?!!

Because I am a journalist and find it impossible not to get to the bottom of things (even if it ends up that my bottom gets kicked around) I didn't leave it at that. I called Youssef Ghishan right away, since he is not only from Akram's ancient hometown, Madaba, but also from the same tribe. I asked him the tough question: Does Akram Masarweh have Roman blood in him?

Thinking that there must be a catch to the question and noting the possibility that I may have lost the remainder of my mind after getting totally ignored by the swift fingers of Jerash, Youssef hesitated a bit before explaining: More like Pharaonic blood, he said. He even went into the goody details: Akram's great great grandfather came into the clan from Egypt, thus his surname, which translates into Egyptians!

I knew it. The man is a Jordanian pharaoh! If only I could prove that Akram Masarweh's ancestor is Cleopatra who was married to her younger brother, Ptolemy XII, and killed him with the help of her lover, JULIUS CAESAR, to marry another brother, Ptolemy XIII, while still the mistress of CAESAR, and who, while in Rome, bore a son, CAESARION, who was later renamed Ptolemy XIV, but she did not marry him because another man, Marc Anthony or something, came into her life... I could prove my theory.

Putting aside the sensuality of Cleopatra and her men, only an idiot would not know that Ptolemy XIV is the son of Caesar! Who cares if he was out of wedlock; all her husbands were in incest! If only I could prove that Akram Masarweh is the descendant of Caesarion, I could prove that he is Roman!

And I almost did, if it wasn't for Jordan winning that soccer game.

Man!! What a soccer game!

Being a journalist, I had to admit to myself that there is more to a victorious "first-time" than the reason why Akram Masarweh, who happens to be a government employee, is good at his job.

I quit trying to prove that Akram is got to be a natural at Feticini Alfredo and instead flipped from starving to festive: What victory, what a goal! Why did it happen? How? What will the nation do with Jiryes Tadros's right-foot combat boot that landed that unforgettable ball into the most important net in Jordanian history? What brand was his boot? No, no, it is the foot behind the boot that counts.

What a victory... what history made with true Jordanian sweaty feet! Why were the teams brought home in a military aircraft? No, no, it is the fact that they are home that counts. Why am I so excited over a soccer match?

Heck, soccer or making a point, victory is VICTORY, however you see it...

That we were victorious, we made a point. Everything is possible, even the impossible. Did you know that Ayman Al Nadi, our gold medalist in boxing, went to fight it out with a hole in his boot? Did you know that he sold newspapers on the streets to feed his kids a little, while never missing a training session? It is the foot behind the boot that counts, whatever the brand... and however smelly it gets.

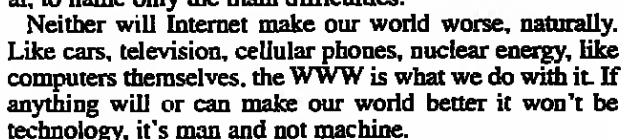
Have you exercised your feet at the Jerash Festival yet?

With his smelly Jordanian feet, Akram also makes history every year.

Hail Akram, Hail Jiryes, Hail Ayman... Hail their boots... and who gives a hoot about Caesar's escapades?!!!

By Jean-Claude Elias

As to making our world better simply because it lets us communicate more easily I do have some reservations.



Thursday, July 31, 1997

Thursday, July 31, 1997		7:35	Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
		8:00	Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
		8:30	National Geographic
3:30	Holy Koran	9:10	Renegade
3:35	French Programmes	10:00	News In English
4:05	Hey Dad	10:30	One West Waikiki
4:30	He Shoots He Scores	11:15	Sisters

Monday, August 4, 1997

7:05	French Programme		
7:30	News headlines		
7:35	Trivial Pursuit		
8:00	Parenthood	2:00	The Holy Koran
8:10	Cinema Cinema Cinema	2:10	Cartoon
8:30	Documentary (Submarines)	3:00	Gillette Sports Special
9:10	Kung Fu — The Legend Continues	3:30	Deep Water Haven
10:00	News In English	4:00	Animal Show
10:30	Movie	4:30	Ocean Girl
12:00	Taratata	5:15	French Programme

Friday, August 1, 1997

		7:30	News Headlines
		7:35	Neighbours
2:00	Holy Koran	8:00	Murphy Brown
2:05	Cartoons	8:30	Babylon 5
3:00	French Programmes	9:10	Highlander
4:00	Family Matters	10:00	News In English
4:30	NBA	10:35	Emergency Room (E.R.)
6:10	Football Film	11:15	Homicide

Tuesday, August 5, 1997

7:35	Neighbours		
8:00	The Health Show		
8:30	Hawkeye	2:00	Holy Koran
9:10	Drama Series	2:35	French Programme
10:00	News In English	3:00	Square One TV
10:30	Mini Series	3:10	Dog House
12:00	Movie		

Saturday, August 2, 1997

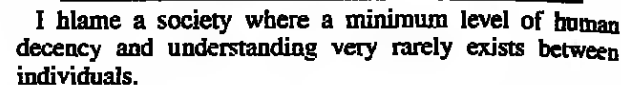
		7:00	Le Journal
		7:30	News Headlines
2:00	Holy Koran	7:35	Coach
2:10	Twinkle	8:00	Tilt 23.5
2:30	Wishbone	8:30	Encounter
3:00	Blue Heelers	9:10	Nature Of Things (Documentary)
3:30	World Of Geo	10:00	News In English
4:00	The Valley Between	10:30	West Beach
4:30	Tilt	11:15	Mini Series

Sunday, August 3, 1997

		7:00	Le Journal
		7:30	News Headlines
2:00	Holy Koran	7:35	Neighbours
2:10	Cartoon	8:00	Soldier's Diary
3:00	Energy Express	8:30	Oprah Winfrey Show
4:00	American Chart Show	9:10	Spenser For Hire
6:00	French Programmes	10:00	News In English
7:00	Le Journal	10:30	Land's End
7:30	News Headlines	11:15	American Gothic

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

I blame a society where it does not matter what you know but who you know.



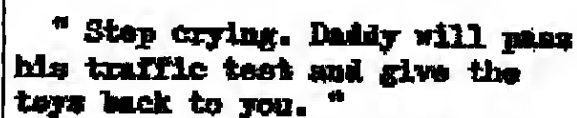
In my naiveté, I have proposed, and still do, a new way of doing things. A new approach where taking care of the little details and the little people can be the first step towards all of us living far more productive and useful lives. A new way where that minimum level of common decency can be instilled in every single Jordanian man and woman. A common decency which will enable us to better understand one another's aspirations and dreams. The two things that will matter most to our common future because living side by side is the one reality from which there can be no escape. The rest is up to us.

Mohammad A. Shugair

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES

* * *

Capricorn: Gardening. Nature study. Rambles in the countryside. Making things of almost any kind, whether mechanical toys (boys) or fancy articles (girls). Chemistry. Physics.



Aquarius: Aviation, ranging from actual flying to making aeroplane models. Gliding. Constructing all kinds of articles. Painting pictures. Drawing. Needlework.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

A'oothu bill'lah.

* * * *

JOKES

NICK: "It makes so many mistakes!"

No one invokes genetic explanations for the high stroke rate among Czechs and Hungarians, he said.

...makes
...the country.
Born in Swe
Greta Gustafsson.
ing she began as a

Harrison Ford starring as the president

By Douglas J. Rowe
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In his latest film, *Air Force One*, Harrison Ford plays a U.S. president who's a faithful husband, devoted father, and world leader committed to doing the right thing no matter what the politically expedient or popular.

Isn't his role a little unrealistic?

The response comes with a stern look and measured words.

Together, they say: You're looking up at the wrong cinematic superstar if you're looking for political pontifications or soapbox solutions to society's problems.

"Not my job," the actor says.

Instead, he wants to focus on how he considers the film much more than an action picture, and how he feels it has a strong emotional underpinning. "It makes his dilemma more than just physical risk," says Ford, who stars as President James Marshall.

Marshall doesn't want to

be lionized for his part in a military operation to capture a Russian separatist because it took too long to happen. (He waited two months to build a political constituency in his own country that allowed him to give the go-ahead.) He says: "While we watched it on TV, 200,000 people died."

And he proceeds to promise that never again would he allow U.S. self-interest to deter him from doing the morally right thing.

In that context, Ford feels the film takes on considerably more emotional heft as his character eventually faces a Hobson's choice between his daughter's life and the policy decision he's made.

"It also reminds us to take into account the human factor, that judging by ourselves from some distance the moral leadership that we have ... is not the same as standing there with your daughter's life in jeopardy," Ford says.

Judgments of real-life public officials and their

morality can have the wrong focus, he says.

"Unfortunately, it's about personal behavior instead of about the real questions of our country's moral behavior. A lot of it is very much misplaced and incorrectly applied. Of course, we should have an interest in the character of the person we elect to the presidency, but we have unrealistic expectations of our political leaders."

Much of what Mr. Clinton is accused of (philandering, in particular) we now know other presidents have been guilty of — "in spades," Ford acknowledges.

"The press used to be protective of the personal lives of our leaders, almost complicitous in maintaining their dignity and their privacy. Now everyone's a tabloid journalist," he says.

Ford likes to guard his own privacy. He spends much of his free time on his 800-acre (320-hectare) spread near Jackson Hole, Wyoming, with his two children — 10-year-old Malcolm and 6-year-old Geo-

gia — and second wife Melissa Mathison, a screenwriter whose credits include *E.T. The Extraterrestrial*. Similarly, he stays away from spouting his social and political views.

"I have very strong interests, keen interests, in a lot of social and political issues, which I discharge as a private citizen, not as a celebrity spokesman."

Still, he wants to make sure no criticism of more vocal stars is implied.

"I'm not in a position to discuss anybody else's behavior or how they conduct themselves. It's purely their choice. For myself, I'm not interested in becoming a poster boy for any particular cause. I don't think that's useful to either the cause or to myself. But mostly I don't think it's useful to the cause."

He started in the box-office blockbuster *The Fugitive* and received an Academy Award nomination for playing a Philadelphia detective who tries to blend in with the Amish in 1985's *Witness*. And he's displayed his acting range in such disparate films as *Blade Runner*, *The Mosquito Coast*, *Working Girl* and *Regarding Henry*.

"I've always tried to do all kinds of films, from little romantic comedies to smaller dramas," he says.

In picking roles, Ford says he looks for things that

engage him, and that he can give an emotional expression to, because he thinks that's the way to connect with an audience — "emotionally ... on a gut level."

Through it all, however, he's never considered what he does mysterious or complicated.

"It's storytelling. There's a story, and I help tell it," he says, making it sound so elementary.

Ford — who's been a tremendous commercial success, starting in five of the 25 biggest-grossing films of all time — considers himself more of a craftsman, like the carpenter he was before his career breakthrough 20 years ago, than an artist.

"I don't have time to work with wood anymore, and I've lost my chops," he says now. "It's like a skill that you lose. Like a musician loses his skill if he doesn't practice every day."



Actor Harrison Ford poses for photographers as he arrives for the premiere of his new film *Air Force One* on July 21 in Los Angeles. In the action film, Ford portrays the president of the United States who is hijacked while aboard *Air Force One*, the presidential airplane (Reuters photo)

film, like Sylvester Stallone in *Cop Land*. "I like what I do," says Ford.

Air Force One — Movie's escapades a stretch from reality

By Nancy Benac
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Terrorists hijack *Air Force One*. Secret Service agents hustle the president into a secret escape pod. He refuses to eject, and slinks around the plane freeing hostages.

If you're looking for escapism summer fare, *Air Force One*, which opened in the United States last Friday, offers a whole of a tale.

Could any of it really happen? Parts of the Columbia Pictures film are credible — the footage inside *Air Force One* looks fairly realistic and the plane could be refueled in flight as depicted — but creative minds clearly have taken liberties.

Take the escape pod, which looks like a capsule for sending chips into orbit. No such thing, says the air force.

In the movie, the escape pod parachutes safely to Earth, and U.S. officials are slotted to find that it's empty. President James

Clinton: *Air Force One* movie entertaining, not realistic

LOS ANGELES — President Bill Clinton says the new movie *Air Force One* is "entertaining, not realistic." Clinton, who is in the movie, says he was not involved in the film's production. "I was just a passenger on the plane," he says. "I was not involved in the production of the movie. I was just a passenger on the plane." Clinton says he was not involved in the film's production. "I was just a passenger on the plane," he says. "I was not involved in the production of the movie. I was just a passenger on the plane."

Marshall, played by Harrison Ford, has refused to bail out when Kazak terrorists (led by Gary Oldman) are holding his wife and 12-year-old daughter among the hostages. Alas, Marshall, too, is eventually captured. But not before he manages to kill a few terrorists, hold hushed consultations with the White House from a cellular phone in the Boeing 747's baggage compartment, sneak upstairs to fax refueling instructions to the Vice President (Glenn Close) and help dozens of hostages parachute out an escape hatch in the tail cone. The phone call and the fax could have happened, but the Jumbo Jet's escape hatch is pure fantasy. At another point, the president and other hostages are whooshed one by one to another U.S. plane by sliding along a solitary tether line. "There was a considerable degree of artistic license throughout the picture and that was certainly one of the examples," says Phil Strub, the Pentagon's movie liaison officer. "We understand that these are movies, not documentaries or news-

reels." What about the idea that the whole plot is set in motion by a rogue Secret Service agent who knocks off some of his colleagues in flight and arms the terrorists? Any takeover of the plane would almost have to be an inside job, because of the formidable barriers to smuggling arms on board. But agents on the White House detail are the cream of the crop and not one has ever betrayed the president.

"Secret Service agents are human beings," said Larry Sheafe, a private security consultant and past Secret Service deputy director. "I suppose it's conceivable for a Secret Service agent to go bad, but it certainly never has happened."

Other high-tech features of the plane touted in the movie are closer to reality. As depicted, the plane can be refueled in flight. In fact, it can remain airborne for a week or more at a time, although a midair refueling has never been tried when the president was on board.

Early in the film, a White House spokeswoman gives a visitlog Russian film crew an in-flight tour of the plane and cheerily announces that

the aircraft can withstand even the pulse of a nuclear blast. Later, the plane evades missile attacks from both U.S. and Russian fighter jets.

Air Force One really is equipped with an antimissile system and "hardened" communications gear designed to withstand the electronic waves generated by a nuclear blast. But even if equipped with missile defenses, a big, slow aircraft like a 747 would have limited ability to outmaneuver top fighter jets.

Moviegoers do get a fairly realistic view of what it's like to travel in *Air Force One* style. The big, cushy leather seats are all first class, there are televisions and telephones galore, the latest computers and other electronic devices abound, and there's a private sleeping cabin and office for the president. That's all true to life, although the large conference room in the movie is a lot more cramped in reality.

Oddly enough, despite the physical trappings of a first-class ride, the food on the real *Air Force One* consists of notoriously dreary military fare — breakfast burritos and tuna sandwiches are standard — but at least the beer and wine are plentiful. The main perk from flying on the president's plane is the custom-made boxes of M and M Candy bearing the presidential seal.

As shown in the movie, a limited number of reporters and photographers do fly on *Air Force One* in a rear compartment behind the Secret Service cabin, although the press area isn't nearly as large as depicted in the movie. In the film, the visiting Russian film crew is actually a bunch of terrorist impostors. In fact, only reporters from a White House press pool who have security clearance are allowed on *Air Force One*. The movie never explains how the impostors managed to pass a computerized check of their fingerprints.

Greta Garbo is still not left alone, even in death

By Belinda Goldsmith
Reuters

STOCKHOLM — Swedish Hollywood film superstar Greta Garbo, famous during her lifetime for her desire to be alone, has even in death still to find the solitude she craved.

Seven years after Garbo died in New York, aged 84, her home city of Stockholm and her sole heir, niece Gray Reisfield, are still trying to agree about where the actress's ashes should be buried.

Stockholm Mayor Mats Hulth said Stockholm is the rightful resting place for Garbo, whose parents and younger sister are buried in a traditional family plot in a Stockholm cemetery.

"Stockholm is her home city and she is the greatest daughter of our city, so we want her to be buried here," Mr. Hulth told Reuters.

"We have offered her niece various grave sites in Stockholm but she has made no decision yet. She has been to Stockholm twice and we are hoping she will come back again this year, hopefully this autumn, so we can show her what we can offer."

Ms. Reisfield has yet to decide where the ashes of her celebrity aunt should be buried.

"We are looking for something that is appropriate and secure and we are evaluating a number of possibilities," Ms. Reisfield's son Derek told Reuters by telephone from his New York office.



Greta Garbo

"But it is family policy not to comment publicly on family affairs."

Until a decision is finally made, Garbo's ashes are being kept in an urn which is believed to be stored in a New York undertaker's office.

The city of Stockholm exhibits great affection for its most famous daughter, even though the actress spent less than half of her life in Sweden. Any news of her letters, biographies or ashes makes headlines across the country.

Born in Stockholm as Greta Gustafsson, her working life began as a lather girl

scouting for talent. When Stiller was offered a contract to go to Hollywood by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, he made it conditional that the young star, whom he named Garbo, should go with him.

She rose quickly to stardom in 10 silent and 14 sound films.

With her high cheek bones and finely chiselled features, she often portrayed world-weary women caught in ill-fated love affairs and in real life never married.

She was nominated for an Academy Award three times but never won one. However, in 1954 she was given a special Oscar "for her unforgettable screen performances."

"I want to be alone"

Garbo's appearance in the film *Grand Hotel* is what she is most remembered for, with her trademark line: "I want to be alone."

Garbo confounded the film world at the age of 36 by quitting and withdrawing from public life.

She spent the last 49 years of her life as a near-recluse, living alone in a luxury seven-roomed apartment on Manhattan's fashionable East Side.

She adopted the pseudonym Harriet Brown and never went out without dark glasses.

The cause of her death on April 15, 1990, was never made public, but it was believed she suffered from kidney problems.

Cyndi Lauper wants more than just 'fun'

By Meg Richards
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Cyndi Lauper contemplates the fickle nature of spring weather as she walks her dog on Manhattan's Upper West Side in a black leather coat, a jogging suit and a pair of funky soaker mules.

"Awww, I shouldn't have worn this coat. I got green hair, everybody's going to be staring at me," she worries from behind dark sunglasses. Then, in a theatrical whisper, she adds, "this is a very straight neighbourhood."

But this is also New York, and even on the Upper West Side, rock legends can walk their dogs unnoticed — even Lauper who hasn't really been a celebrity du jour in recent years.

The eccentric artist who authored an anthem about women and fun returns to the airy apartment she shares with husband David Thornton.

Lauper is back with a new album, *Sisters Of Avalon*, and a tour this summer with Tina Turner. And at 42, Lauper is ready to be "rediscovered."

"I always, from the beginning, felt that my biggest obstacle was to get people to look beyond what they saw," she says, reflecting on the years since the campy hit *Girls Just Want To Have Fun* established her playful, cartoonish image.

That was 1984. Thirteen years later, Lauper is just as playful as ever, but her music and her manner are marked by a different sort of maturity. Now a married woman who is expecting her first child, Lauper's home life doesn't seem so unusual.

She and Thornton, an actor she married in 1992 in



Cyndi Lauper

a memorable ceremony officiated by the flamboyant Little Richard, share their Upper West Side pre-war apartment with two cats and a tenderhearted Labrador retriever named Joe. The baby is due in November.

"I don't know what the cats are going to think about this," says Thornton, 43, who jokes about bringing in counselors for all the pets. "They haven't been able to get over the arrival of Joe the dog."

Lauper, meanwhile, says she's certain she'll give birth to a football player or a model.

"A model of what, that's the question," Thornton laughs. "A model citizen? I doubt it. ... Cyndi and hyperbole kind of go hand in hand."

Thornton, who plays a drag queen in the upcoming *Too Young To Die*, starring Mira Sorvino, doubts the family will make many changes when the baby

of the music that matters," she says. "It doesn't matter what the artist is like. If people feel power, if they feel energy, if they feel joy when they listen, that's what's important."

Noce of Lauper's musical efforts have matched the wild success of her 1983 debut LP *She's So Unusual*, from which the single *Girls Just Want To Have Fun* was taken. She jokingly refers to her 1989 album, *A Night To Remember*, as "a night to forget." She tried a different approach with *Hat Full Of Stars* in 1994, an album that is still very close to her heart. But while it was well-received by critics, it was largely ignored by the public.

Getting people to listen to the newer work has been a struggle.

"I have no doubt there is an audience out there," says Ross Piro, product manager at Lauper's longtime label, Epic Records. "But we're up against some prejudice. There is a bit of a wall. People remember the *Girls Just Want To Have Fun* days, and we want to get people past that."

After a brief but successful foray into acting — she won an Emmy in 1995 for a guest role on the NBC show *Mad About You* — Lauper turned back to her music. Her 1995 greatest hits album, *12 Deadly Cyns*, sold 3 million copies worldwide, and was particularly successful in Europe and Japan. Although the record went gold at home, interest again seemed centered around her older work.

"In the '80s, I tried to reflect what was going on and what was important then," Lauper says. "Now, I'm doing the same thing. I am living in the present."



Walking trainer for handicapped children

By Alert Evans

DAVID HART (right), a medical research engineer who has spent eight years designing and developing this intricate body brace, has given hope to thousands of children around the world who have a walking disability. He is pictured in his clinic in Keighley, West Yorkshire, northern England, fitting the device (an orthotic walking trainer MkII) to a five-year-old patient from Zagreb, Croatia.

The wheeled invention gives physically disabled children an opportunity, after assessment, to walk for the first time and an independence which otherwise could

not have been contemplated. It is steered by the movement of the child and frees the hands, allowing him, or her, to play unhindered.

The walking trainer containing more than 200 precision engineered components, consists of a metal frame hinged at the user's hip, knee and ankle and is connected to a pair of shoes worn by the child. Its novel adjustable suspension system enables the user to stand properly or when walking to change direction. The device gives freedom and stability to the user while learning walking patterns and developing self-confidence — London Press Service.

Doctors disappointed by search for diabetes cure

HELSINKI (R) — Doctors and other experts gathering to swap notes on diabetes said last week they are disappointed that no one has been able to get even close to a cure.

A new drug that helps patients control their blood sugar and fat levels — troglitazone — has received wide attention, but no one pretends it can offer a cure to the 135 million diabetes sufferers around the world.

Hard science is the only way ahead, researchers say — and many of the techniques that are needed are beyond the reach of present-day expertise.

Until someone can come up with an artificial pancreas to keep an eye on blood sugars and produce the insulin the body needs, or to regenerate the crucial cells, diabetes will continue to suffer damage to their arteries, eyes, nerves and kidneys, and to sometimes die from that damage.

Diabetes sufferers are twice as likely as non-diabetics to have a heart attack or stroke.

"It's been described as a lifetime without holidays," Robert Tattersall of Britain's University of Nottingham told delegates to the 16th International Diabetes Federation Congress.

"We are still stuck with a disease that, unless the sufferer takes extreme care, is like a sword of Damocles hanging over them."

Nothing better has come along since insulin injections, which save the lives of victims, were developed 75 years ago, Dr. Tattersall told reporters. "We still have a treatment which is not satisfactory," he added.

"It is still possible to see young diabetes patients with severe eye disease, severe kidney disease."

Standard treatment

Standard therapy now consists of careful diet and exercise for the mildest forms of type-two or Non-Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (NIDDM). For those who do not respond to this regime — or do not stick to it — there are sulphonylureas, drugs that stimulate pancreatic secretion of insulin.

There is also Metformin, a member of a class of drugs known as biguanides, which help keep down glucose production.

Many people with NIDDM and all those with insulin-dependent diabetes (IDDM or type-one diabetes) need insulin. Efforts to come up with a pill that will survive digestion has failed, and these people must inject themselves up to four times a day.

"I think at this moment we don't have any good drugs for type-two diabetes," said Markku Laakso, professor in medicine at Kuopio University. "Simple things like diet and exercise and weight loss are still the most important part of treatment."

John Tuttle of the University of Sydney agreed. "Insulin is not the answer to diabetes," he said. It was clumsy and unpleasant to use, he added.

"Present methods of insulin administration, by injection, pen or pump, are unphysiological."

Troglitazone, made by Japan's Sankyo Co Ltd 4501.T, is a new class of drug that makes the body more sensitive to the effects of insulin, meaning it needs less of the precious substance.

News that it lowered insulin requirements so much that some people could even stop injections sent shares in licensee Warner-Lambert Wla.N and Glaxo Glxo.L soaring.

Although some researchers say it may help prevent some cases of diabetes in people suffering pre-diabetic symptoms it offers no cure.

'Holy grail' of the artificial pancreas

"The holy grail has always been that somebody could devise a artificial pancreas. This has proved very difficult," Dr. Tattersall said. "Creating a machine that would fit unobtrusively into the body, constantly measure blood sugar levels, synthesise and dose with insulin, would be a major feat."

One hope lies in transplants: Experiments in transplanting the islet cells that produce insulin have been hopeful, Derek Gray of Oxford University told the congress. But, as with other organs, there simply are not enough available.

Animal cells were a possibility but efforts to make human bodies accept such xenotransplants would probably not work, he told the 9,500 delegates.

"Is xenotransplantation of islets to cure IDDM ever

going to succeed? The answer is eventually yes," Dr. Gray said — but added that medical knowledge and technology were not there yet.

To get there, researchers are trying to find out more about the genetic mechanisms behind diabetes. They believe that genes are completely responsible for some cases of IDDM, and combine with environmental factors such as diet and nutrition, or possibly viruses, in other diabetes cases.

"Genetic studies will play a key role in determining what will happen in the treatment of type-two diabetes in the future," Dr. Laakso said.

He said scientists were hoping to discover a single major gene, responsible perhaps for 20 to 30 per cent of all cases of NIDDM. That would offer a single target for a drug.

Peter Arner of Stockholm's Karolinska Institute said one of the new genetic targets was the beta-three adenosine receptor, which is used by the neurotransmitter catecholamine to stimulate fat-burning.

Both obesity and diabetes researchers have been testing chemicals that stimulate this receptor, but so far they have not worked, perhaps because rats are being used as models.

He said human models were now being used. "It remains, however, to be shown if these new agents are effective in anti-obesity or anti-diabetes treatment," he said.

Diabetes becoming 'global epidemic'

HELSINKI (R) — Diabetes, already the fourth main cause of death in many countries, is becoming a truly global epidemic, experts told a recent conference.

Drug therapy for the potentially deadly illness has improved little since insulin injections were developed in 1922 and the best hope is to change the way people live, they said.

Diabetes affects 135 million people worldwide. By 2025, the World Health Organisation predicts, that number will reach 300 million. The rate is set to rise by 45 per cent in developed countries and to triple in developing countries.

"I think we can truly say that the epidemic is here and now," Paul Zimmet, chief executive officer of the International Diabetes Institute, told a news conference.

"Unless we do something dramatic, I expect diabetes to be one of the major killers in the world in the year 2010," agreed Jack Jervell, president of the International Diabetes Federation.

"What is bothering me is that developing countries will bear the brunt of this epidemic," he told the 9,000 delegates to the 16th International Diabetes Congress.

Mr. Jervell said complications from diabetes killed 2.8 million people around the world every year. About 10 per cent of victims have type-one or insulin-dependent diabetes, which is often genetic in origin. The rest have type-

Diabetes — a new world epidemic

HELSINKI (R) — Experts say a worldwide epidemic of diabetes is already under way, with 135 million current sufferers and a predicted 300 million by 2025.

There are two main types of diabetes. Type-one, or Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (IDDM), affects 10 to 15 per cent of sufferers and is caused when the body loses its ability to produce insulin, which controls blood sugar levels.

More common in children and adolescents, its symptoms include frequent urination and accompanying thirst, weight loss, tiredness and blurred vision. The body tries to rid itself of excess glucose, which causes damage to blood vessels and tissue. Sufferers must be given insulin and can die within a week without it. They must carefully monitor their blood sugar levels and may have to inject themselves with insulin four times a day.

Type-two diabetes, or Non-Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (NIDDM), affects the majority of diabetics. Again the symptoms are thirst and a frequent need to urinate, blurred vision and sometimes a tingling in the hands and feet. Because damage may have accumulated without the sufferer realising, there could be skin problems and slow-healing sores.

Diabetes is caused by a complex interaction of genes and behaviour. At least four genes have been associated with a tendency to diabetes.

two or non-insulin-dependent diabetes.

It kills by causing heart disease or kidney failure, and if untreated or poorly treated can cause blindness, vascular problems that lead to damage of the limbs, and other complications.

Dr. Zimmet said up to half of all people with diabetes did not even know they had it. Symptoms are vague — tiredness, thirst and a need to urinate frequently are common as the body tries to flush away excess blood sugar that builds up as the pancreas fails to produce insulin.

By the time damage to tissue and blood vessels that marks the disease shows up, it can be too late.

People who were not at risk before were now getting diabetes, the experts said. While diabetes used to hit mostly those over the age of 50, cases were now common among people in their 20s and 30s.

Hilary King of the World Health Organisation said while most victims in developed countries were over 65, most in developing countries were aged 45 to 64.

"Clearly, we are not dealing with a geriatric disease here," he told a news conference.

Rates are skyrocketing in populations that are suddenly becoming modern and Westernised, such as Australian Aborigines, Pacific Islanders, Native Americans

and even among black children.

"The majority of new cases will be of type-two diabetes and will be in China, the Indian subcontinent and Africa," Dr. Zimmet said.

Dr. King agreed. "The pattern is a fairly severe and alarming one," he told a news conference.

The traditional medical approach of controlling diabetes with a low-fat, low-sugar diet, moderate exercise, and careful monitoring did not work with these new populations.

"They think their diabetes is due to the fact that the white man has taken away their lifestyle," Dr. Zimmet said.

Dr. King said the pattern of diabetes was going "hand-in-hand" with increasing obesity. All experts agreed that as people switch to high-fat and high-sugar diets, bodies that evolved to respond to famine fail to handle the overload.

Dr. King, Dr. Zimmet and other experts said while drugs were useful for treating the symptoms of diabetes, they offered no cure. Eating habits and exercise were more important.

Although this sounded like a matter of individual responsibility, it was up to governments and society to make the needed changes.

"It's not enough simply to tell people what to eat and to exercise," Dr. King said. "You have to make it feasible for them."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

COUNTRY VISTA
By William Canine

ACROSS

1. Cut up
2. Marjorie's man
3. Metal strip
4. Boy, it's hot!
5. Spin
6. Gears
7. Expectation
8. Tossed
9. Stomach
10. Encounter
11. Gumball
12. "All About..."
13. Start of error
14. Support
15. Dream
16. Dwelling
17. Gardner of film
18. Ripen
19. Beauty or Brooks

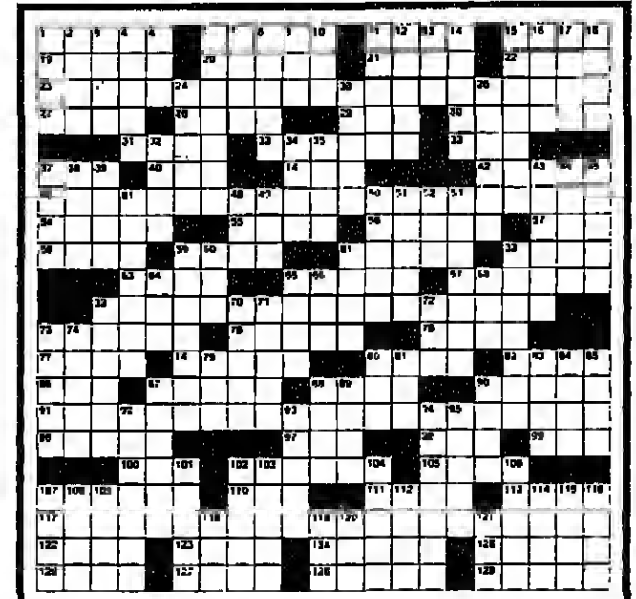
DOWN

1. In the — (active)
2. Half ball word
3. Be enthusiastic
4. Madame role
5. Sarcasm
6. Mow cut
7. Work
8. Sneaky
9. Big curve
10. Close — (near)
11. Mop
12. Baker's address
13. G's address
14. Extra innery
15. Small brown bird
16. Usual
17. Admire or Magnus
18. Occident
19. Shortland
20. Invention
21. Columnist Hopper

22. Service corps
23. Hilly
24. Tantalize
25. Kudos or
26. Hartman
27. Cavetti, to ports
28. Ral's command
29. Actor Messian
30. De — (film's chyl)
31. Double and
32. "All About..."
33. Start of error
34. Support
35. Dream
36. Dwelling
37. Gardner of film
38. Ripen
39. Beauty or Brooks

26. Home of "More"

27. "For At"
28. "Seamus"
29. Mr. Paraglan
30. "Long, via"
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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Young owner of new lemonade stand hires nice healthy youngsters for the summer rush.
2. Many a bachelor may merely munch on a bunch of crunchy celery for lunch.
3. Fussy old butlers remonstrate: "There is something pleasantly first-class about pheasant under glass."
4. When stock market takes big tumble, it becomes a rough new "bawl" game.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1.RZ OH RAB, ZPD LMQRN OBN REN ZPB
ERMNQC CRVZ TURBEUH LDABE ZQ
SPREAD TURNDY. — By Paul H. Rupp

2.BUG HEE JUPN TREGAT AP JUN JUN JULY
SUNYTH GUAPBUSS JUGL BUSS. — By K.C. Doyle

3.TBTS D RICH-TOLI TOT AR UNPUL EP RDS
FI OGCCL PATRICH GO US FAR
UPPERENDUR. — By Ed Haddock

4.OU BINTOF LIKE ITS SAFE, BY LIBYCH
IWACK ERYNUTE AT NAASHYE. — By Frank N. Stein

Diagramless, 17x17
By Frances Burton

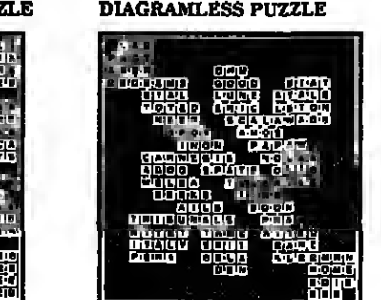
ACROSS

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2. "For At"
3. "Seamus"
4. Mr. Paraglan
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DOWN

1. Fat
2. Modern prince
3. Moon
4. Dope office boy
5. Kind of life
6. Cigar residue
7. Aspirin's go
8. Pie up
9. Theatrical author
10. Impassable deeply
11. Crush
12. Early victim
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SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S
DIAGRAMLESS PUZZLE



ANSWERS

Quechua and Aymara.
Peru was once the centre of culture in Spanish South America.

The oldest university in the Americas, San Marcos, was founded there way back in 1551

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Cole Porter.
2. Preamble of the U.S. constitution.
3. It started in Naples.
4. World War I.
5. Believe it or not, the nasturtium is named after a sort of sneeze. If you have ever smelled one of these bright orange flowers you would know just what kind of a feeling it gave to your nose.

The word comes to us from two Latin words, one meaning nose, the other twist.

6. The name for this game goes back through old French and Danish to the word for a shepherd's crook. It may well be that the first games of hockey were played between shepherds and the first hockey sticks were their crooks!

7. Most of the Peruvians are descended from the Spanish and original Indians. The languages spoken are Spanish and two Indian languages:

PUZZLES

KEYWORDS

H A T E A C I D
Y O V A H I
M A K E S H I T
N E H A M T
S I N K D E F Y

Features
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from page 1
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King says door for dialogue closed unless on best interests of Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

assassination of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. These have been crimes committed by small factions here and there, but their repercussions were far-reaching because these events were designed to impose an agenda on the majority of people who are keen on establishing a last and durable peace and striving for a better life for the coming generations, a life which we were deprived of so far.

"These events have so far succeeded in obstructing the peace process and in replacing hope with pessimism, and despair and in preventing people from

reaching their aspirations," the King pointed out.

He said: "This challenge is posed against the majority of people in Jordan, as well as in other parts of this region, because this faction aims to keep us living in the darkness, heading towards the unknown."

King Hussein said: "As we live in this part of the world, we have to protect our land and our rights and we have to do whatever we can to achieve a better future that will guarantee stability and security and enable people to resume construction in the coming century."

Stressing the need for national unity, the King said: "Jordan will remain united in times of joy and

adversity, and should strive on — despite some weaknesses — in order to serve the people in the present and future."

Referring to the graduates at the War College, King Hussein said: "This training course is not only military in its essence but it is rather a training course to prepare army officers to assume higher and more important positions, not only within the Armed Forces but way beyond."

Reviewing the development of the Royal War College over the years, he added: "Jordan's potentials have been limited and the resources were meagre but the Armed Forces of Jordan have been able to

achieve for their country and nation a unique status in this region and in the world at large by doing a great service working within the U.N. peace-keeping forces."

He referred to the letters of appreciation of the Jordanian Armed Forces by the United Nations and the people of former Yugoslavia and said they were expressing admiration and appreciation of the Jordanian officers for their heroic actions and sacrifices.

He said that the Armed Forces represent a shield that protects the nation from dangers and protects Jordanians and ensures the country's security, safety and stability.

Environmental sustainability — an act of survival

By Dr. Maher Fathi Abu Taleb

JORDAN, LIKE many other developing countries, has a relatively scarce natural resource base and a high population-growth rate. The country is confronting environmental problems at the local, regional and global levels. The notion that the local and regional environment must be protected and sustained has been a priority long recognised by the government.

Jordan has been successful in setting up the institutions necessary to fully consider non-quantifiable environmental factors. The main problem of environmental management, however, stems from the lack of comprehensiveness in environment protection and pollution control activity and inadequate enforcement of laws and guidelines in the country.

Some of the local problems include land quality impacts, whereby diminishing land quality due to improper drainage has reached the point where future dry seasons could render some of the lands unsuitable or cause diminished agricultural yields; desertification and air pollution standards. Jordan can be considered to have a clean air environment. There are certain areas in the country, however, where the concentration of pollutants is higher than the limits accepted by international standards.

Arguably, the most important class of environ-

mental problems in Jordan is water-related, implying real threats to public health and agricultural and industrial productivity. Another important problem concerns the disposal of solid waste. Municipal solid waste and non-hazardous waste (including medical waste) are dumped in sanitary landfills where strict monitoring operations have yet to be enforced.

In terms of the regional environment, Jordan faces some serious problems, most of which are related to the sharing of water resources with its neighbours. These resources include the Jordan river system, shared by Jordan, Israel, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine, and the Disi groundwater aquifer, shared with Saudi Arabia. The concerns here include Dead Sea water levels, Jordan River water quality and quantity and shared non-renewable groundwater aquifers.

With respect to global environmental problems, Jordan is likely to be impacted by internationally transmitted phenomena, such as global climate change from greenhouse gas emissions. Although scientific analysis has provided only broad and rather uncertain predictions about global warming, any such change has the potential to affect the supply of irrigation water and the demand for water by crops. This would translate into increased costs for ensuring developing and sustaining irrigation projects.

In addition, the global warming trend would further induce drops in Dead Sea water levels and in the fresh ground water levels in the Kingdom and cause increased soil salination.

Another potential problem, stemming from global temperature rises of between one to four degrees, is the rise in ocean temperature.

Jordan may be vulnerable to the loss of its coral reefs in Aqaba and the Red Sea because of a process that affects corals, called bleaching. Bleaching is believed to occur when abnormally high temperatures exist in the sea, and some scientists have called bleaching a harbinger of global warming.

Jordan has long recognised the importance of responding to environmental threats; the legal-based and institutional framework developed over the years has come as a response to a number of distinct environmental issues: water pollution, land quality, natural resources management and protection, and wildlife management and conservation.

The government has opted to confront the regional environmental problems through high level diplomacy. In terms of the global environmental threats, such as global warming, Jordan is signatory to all relevant environmental treaties.

As mentioned, Jordan has attempted to face its environmental problems and has instituted policies to

minimise environmental degradation due to economic development. But without fundamentally new monitoring and enforcement approaches, efforts to provide sustainable water, environmental sanitation systems and sustainable development for all may fail. Water, soil and air quality testing must be augmented by monitoring and assessment schemes that are directly tied with some form of legal enforcement.

Such issues need to be addressed through greater investments and by monitoring and coordinating the actions of testing labs and enforcement agencies. At that point, monitoring and assessment schemes will not only serve to establish base-line conditions, but will also serve to indicate the extent of environmental stress and response. This must be performed comprehensively with the expert assistance of environmental scientists, international and local non-governmental organisations in order to confront the wide range of environmental problems in a timely and effective manner.

Given the importance attached to environmental affairs, environmental sustainability must not be viewed merely as an act of enhancing the quality of life, but, due to the sensitivity of the natural resource base, as an act of survival.

The writer is president of Environmental Resources Management Consultants of Amman, Jordan.

Tel. 699634, 684311

Double suicide bombing kills 14 in Jerusalem, injures hundreds

(Continued from page 1)

workers were seen trying to revive a boy of about eight. Radio reports said the two bombers apparently drove to the market together disguised in black coats with white shirts and ties — perhaps in an effort to look like ultra-Orthodox Jews. Each carried a briefcase packed with 10 kilograms of explosives, police said.

Bomb squads picked up blackened screws and nails, packed into the bombs to increase their deadly impact.

Gabi Last, deputy national police chief, said the two blasts went off about 50 to 60 meters apart. He said there had been no intelligence warnings of terror attacks in recent days.

"It was boom, boom, two seconds between explosions," said witness Nissim Armoza, who was buying a sandwich in the market when the blast went off. An Associated Press reporter saw half a corpse, ripped apart by the force of the blast, lying covered with a blanket — apparently one of the bombers.

Palestinian officials condemned the attack, and Mr. Arafat called Mr. Netanyahu to express his condolences.

"The prime minister said to him, in a very tough conversation, that it is not enough to express sorrow, and that he demands that Arafat take action against the terrorist organisations and against their infrastructure," Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak said.

Mr. Netanyahu, who called an emergency cabinet meeting for Wednesday evening, accused the Palestinian National Authority

(PNA) of freeing terrorists. "About 150 leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad were set free like savage animals," he said, "set free to prowl in our cities and our streets to commit these barbarous acts. We expect action to apprehend these terrorists and their leaders [and] to collect their weapons."

Mr. Arafat, however, said the Palestinians have arrested many people and uncovered arms caches.

"I hope this will not be used against the peace process," he told reporters.

David Bar-Ilan, a top aide to Mr. Netanyahu, said the government "will not consider terrorist strikes against its citizens compatible with the peace process. It cannot continue with negotiations as long as such strikes take place and the Palestinian [National] Authority does nothing to stop them."

Mr. Clinton deplored the bombings and called on the PNA to take "concrete steps" to increase security in the region.

Israel immediately imposed a closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, barring tens of thousands of Palestinians from jobs in Israel. Dozens of Israelis gathered near the site of the attack, shouting: "What kind of peace is this? Who needs this peace?"

"Peace is dead. We want a war with all the Arab nations," said one man. Eliyahu Baloush.

Shopkeepers were ordered to close their stores as police searched for more bombs.

"I heard two booms," said Bibi Daka, who owns a watermelon stand at the market. "I flew up in the air over the stand — I looked out and saw people all over



An Israeli woman covered in blood and seriously wounded is helped to an ambulance by an Israeli soldier Wednesday minutes after two explosions ripped through an outdoor market in the centre of the city, killing 18 people and wounding over 100. Police said the attack was apparently the work of Islamist militant suicide bombers. Another injured man lies on the ground waiting medical attention (Reuters photo)

the place, lying on top of each other underneath the stand."

Sarah Yamin, a 43-year-old Jerusalemite shopping at the market, said, "there was a big explosion, then there was another explosion. People flew in the air without legs, without arms, without clothes."

It was the first bombing since the March 21 attack on a Tel Aviv cafe in which three Israeli women and the suicide bomber were

killed, and the most serious attack since the February-March 1996 wave of bombings carried out by the militant Islamist group Hamas.

"I was inside the shop when the first explosion took place," a man identified as Avner told Israel Radio. "The second one was just a second later. Anybody who was between two walls was saved, anybody who poked his head out was killed."

Knesset moves to limit intifada compensation

(Continued from page 1)

majority of which are fictitious."

Under pressure from human rights groups, the government has been forced to change some aspects of the proposed law, which has been in the

works since the Labour government of assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Haneghi said 4,000 complaints have already been filed and 700 have been dealt with by the courts.

Israel has already spent

nearly \$18 million in compensation for Palestinians killed or wounded in error when their homes were damaged accidentally or during the destruction of a neighbouring house.

During the uprising, more than a thousand

Palestinians were killed and tens of thousands wounded by Israeli troops.

During parliamentary debate on the proposed law, several Palestinian families carrying disabled children demonstrated in front of the parliament.

Palestinian legislature demands ouster of Arafat's government

(Continued from page 1)

mafia which controls the transfer of patients abroad for treatment in Jordan, Egypt and Israel," he said.

Before the start of the session, Council President Ahmed Qorie read out a message from Mr. Arafat, saying the president "is following these deliberations and will take the appropriate measures at the appropriate time."

"President Arafat will not tolerate any ministers implicated in corruption remaining in their min-

istries," Mr. Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said. "But we must discuss these accusations and examine their basis," he added.

"It was clear to us in our investigations that [the three ministers] are implicated in corruption and using their influence in order to carve out their own power centres and to achieve personal ends," Mr. Abdul Qader said.

The report was issued by a nine-member commission created to look into an

internal audit by the PNA which revealed the mismanagement of \$326 million in 1996.

Earlier Mr. Shaath lashed out at the report and called for its authors to be prosecuted. The report was "a cruel and unfair campaign, it is a slander and an abuse of the PNA," he said.

"The truth is that the main thing behind this campaign is personal ambition. Members of the legislature want to dissolve the cabinet so that they can be appointed ministers in it," Mr. Shaath replied.

"This report is a huge political crime and the members of the committee should be held accountable for their methods of investigating," he said.

Countries which have pledged millions of dollars in aid to Mr. Arafat's administration since it was established in 1994, including the U.S., have set clean governing as a condition for delivering the funds.

The report levelled no allegations of wrongdoing against Mr. Arafat.

Algeria drafts mini-budget to plug soaring expenses

PARIS (R) — The Algerian government on Wednesday drafted a mini-budget for the next five months to meet inflated state expenditure, the cabinet said.

In a statement on the official Algerian news agency APS, it said the increased spending on top of the original 1997 budget stemmed mainly from pay rises for government workers and pensions, along with payment of debts due to state-owned firms and the cost of holding local elections.

"There is a good reason to make clear that the drawing of the (mini-budget) text was made necessary due to the emergence of new expenditure since the beginning of the year," the cabinet said.

But it said the extra spending would not upset state finances and swell the budget deficit because Algeria had additional income from higher world oil prices than it had originally forecast.

The cabinet said the government had based the budget on a conservative oil price of \$17.50 a barrel but Algerian crude had earned more than that. It gave no details.

The government draws more than half of its budget from oil and gas taxes. The cabinet did not give

all the figures for the emergency expenditure, saying only that they included salary hikes for civil servants, subsidies for the retirement fund, underwriting of debts due to state-owned companies and the cost of local elections.

These items totalled 29 billion dinars (\$500 million). The statement made no mention of any provision for extra spending expected after a severe drought which has badly hit about one million farmers and this year's cereal harvest.

The draft mini-budget will be the first budget to be submitted by the government to a multi-party National Assembly (lower house) elected in June and representing 10 political parties and 11 independents.

But the three-party coalition government has a secure majority to pass the budget.

According to official figures reported earlier by APS, Algeria forecast \$29.4 billion dinars (\$14.8 billion) total revenue against 914.1 billion dinars (\$16.32 billion) expenditure, producing a deficit of about \$1.5 billion for 1997.

Meanwhile, Algeria is planning to sell off between 200 and 230 state-owned

companies either totally or in part, according to a senior Algerian official.

Algerian newspapers on Tuesday quoted Ahmad Tiboui as telling a meeting of Algerian and German businessmen on Monday: "The sectors of construction, major public works and building materials will be totally privatised."

The only exception would be the cement industry where the state would keep a stake but would open it to private capital.

Other areas where companies would be sold off included tourism, distribution networks and the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, Liberte newspaper quoted him as saying.

The newspaper said on the list were 18 chemical-pharmaceutical factories slated for total sale and four for partial privatisation. A tractor plant and railway wagon manufacturing unit would be opened up to private capital.

Mr. Tiboui, the senior official responsible for overseeing state holdings, was quoted as telling the business forum: "We are adapting each time to the demand from the non-resident market (Algerian expatriates and

international firms)."

He said there were also plans for a second privatisation programme affecting local authority enterprises in which shares would be issued only to the company workers.

Liberte quoted Abdelhamane Mebtoul, Algeria's privatisation council president, as saying that privatisation would speed up from next January.

The sale of state assets has made little progress since the policy was introduced four years ago after three decades of centralised state control.

Many companies have for years been heavily overmanned and Western diplomats have said that Algerian officials were wary of the inevitable increase in unemployment that would follow massive privatisation.

The officials have blamed unemployment, poverty and lack of hope for sending many young people into the ranks of militants who have been fighting for nearly six years to topple the authorities.

President Liamine Zeroual has criticised the pace of privatisation and earlier this month set up a privatisation control commission to oversee the programme.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	PTA
US Dollar	1.0000	1.5330	0.6133	1.5134	118.15	1.3810	1785.80	2.0643	6.1785
DE Mark	0.6486	1.0000	0.3342	0.6280	64.46	0.7530	974.14	1.1286	3.3719
GB Sterling	1.6304	2.9890	1.0000	2.4677	192.77	2.2516	2911.42	3.3658	10.0752
CH Franc	0.6608	1.2708	0.4049	1.0000	78.05	0.9122	1178.83	1.3633	4.0619
JP Yen	0.0085	1.5501	0.5184	1.2798	1.0000	1.1679	15.10	174.59	5.2255
CA Dollar	0.7241	1.3279	0.4348	1.0950	1.17	1.2907	1290.72	1.4958	4.4793
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0255	0.3429	0.0847	1514.00	0.7728	11.55	3.4569	2.9916
NL Guilder	0.4844	88.73	0.2965	73.29	57.19	0.6686	364.68	1.1903	3.4569
FR Franc	0.1618	0.2968	0.0992	24.4879	10.10	0.2235	33.41	33.4100	1.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	PTA
US Dollar	1.0000	1.5330	0.6133	1.5134	118.15	1.3810	1785.80	2.0643	6.1785
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	2.1722	0.8324	2.0524	154.12	1.8304	2173.73	2.4732	7.4332
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.4088	0.1605	0.4088	32.00	0.3812	450.36	0.9030	2.7030
Bahrain Dinar	2.85	4.35	1.70	4.35	336.00	3.85	4503.00	5.2535	15.7535
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.4145	0.1630	0.4145	32.64	0.3837	450.36	0.9030	2.7030
Kuwait Dinar	3.2618	4.9528	1.9303	4.9528	396.00	5.45	6540.00	7.6545	22.9545
Emirate Dinar	0.2723	0.4102	0.1626	0.4102	32.48	0.3830	450.36	0.9030	2.7030
Libanese 1000	0.65	0.9750	0.3949	0.9750	77.00	0.8588	1038.00	1.2005	3.6005
Egyptian	0.2553	0.3891	0.1575	0.3891	30.80	0.3900	454.45	1.0000	3.0000

Energy									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	PTA
Brent	19.43	29.65	11.85	29.65	2320.00	33.41	406.36	903.00	2703.00
WTI	20.13	30.35	12.35	30.35	2400.00	34.41	416.36	903.00	2703.00
Bonny	18.43	28.10	11.10	28.10	2200.00	32.41	396.36	883.00	2603.00
Dubai	17.90	27.35	10.75	27.35	2150.00	31.91	386.36	873.00	2553.00
UL Gas	20.10	30.20	12.20	30.20	2350.00	33.51	406.36	903.00	2703.00

Metal Prices									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	PTA
Gold (oz)	328.4	500.0	198.0	500.0	4000.0	55.0	670.0	1400.0	4200.0
Silver (oz)	4.35	6.50	2.50	6.50	50.0	0.70	8.50	18.00	54.00
Platinum (oz)	427.5	640.0	250.0	640.0	5000.0	65.0	780.0	1600.0	4800.0
AL (3 Months)	1697	2550	1000	2550	20000	270	3200	6800	20400
CU (3 Months)	2302	3450	1350	3450	27000	350	4200	8800	26400
Zinc (3 Months)	1455	2180	850	2180	17000	220	2600	5400	16200
Lead (3 Months)	632	950	370	950	7500	95	1100	2300	6900
NI (3 Months)	7355	11000	4200	11000	88000	1150	13800	29000	87000

Main Equity Indices									
	Index	Value	% Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	Turnover
New York	DOW JONES	8238.64	64.11	8262.79	8172.9	8174.53	8238.64	1.1	1.1
New York	S&P 500	550.12	7.83	552.10	541.98	542.29	550.12	1.1	1.1
London	FTSE 100	4927.3	50.7	4927.3	4888.4	4876.6	4927.3	1.1	1.1
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	20212.82	-189.92	20418.8	20170.0	20402.7	20212.82	1.1	1.1
Paris	CAC 40	3069.3	45.67	3075.93	3047.18	3023.63	3069.3	1.1	1.1
Frankfurt	DAX	4421.72	40.83	4426.19	4401.7	4381.69	4421.72	1.1	1.1

Energy									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	PTA
Coffee (c/bs)	201.17	301.7	118.5	301.7	2320.0	33.41	406.36	903.00	2703.00
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1535	2295	885	2295	18000	235	2850	6000	18000
Sugar (\$/ton)	343.4	515.0	198.0	515.0	4000.0	55.0	670.0	1400.0	4200.0
Wheat (\$/ton)	148	222	85	222	1700	22	260	540	1620
Soya (c/bs)	22.27	33.4	13.0	33.4	2600	33	390	820	2460
Tea (kg/box)	137	205	78	205	1600	21	250	520	1560
Barley (\$/bush)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rice (\$/ton)	480	715	275	715	5600	72	860	1800	5400

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) If a superior enthusiasm gives you some suggestions today, be sure to follow them to the letter, thereby you can be quite successful. Labour upon improving the appearance of your abode and make it more pleasant for guests.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) If some minor repairs to your property are necessary today, this is a good time to make them before they become too costly. Pay particular attention to the state of your health, thereby you can keep up with career activities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) If your finances are a bit strained, this would be a good time to collect money owed to you, thereby you will have extra funds for the days ahead. If you go out with close friends later this evening, don't spend too much.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be sure to keep any vital business appointment today, or you could miss a great opportunity for becoming quite successful. Be more affectionate to your mate and take him or her to a romantic location this evening.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A difficulty which has been interfering with your career activities should be solved immediately. A close friend can be very helpful to you tonight, so listen to what he or she has to suggest for you to get successful.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your energy level will be exceptionally high this morning, and you can accomplish a great deal, so by all means proceed with all your duties. Help out a close friend later this evening who is in quite a difficult situation.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You should not do

anything today which could disturb your family. If you have been thinking about taking a trip, later this evening is a good time for making the plan, so consult your loved ones for suggestions.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you have any outstanding bills which should be paid today, this is a good time to do so. A friend needs more time before keeping a promise which he or she has given, so make the effort to oblige this person.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Listen to the advice given to you today by a good friend, as this person cares a great deal about you. Try to spend more time with your loved ones and show that you do appreciate them by doing something special for them.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You should not try to rush fellow associates through their career activities today, or a big disagreement could follow. Show your appreciation to a friend later this evening, by taking this individual out for recreational activities.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your mate may be in a strange mood today, so try to accommodate this person. Get together with good friends for some entertainment which everyone will enjoy and which is not too expensive so you have extra funds.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Try to create more accord within your family and thereby you can maintain a more harmonious situation. Forget socialising this evening. Instead, get plenty of rest so you will be wide awake for the days ahead.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

Peanuts



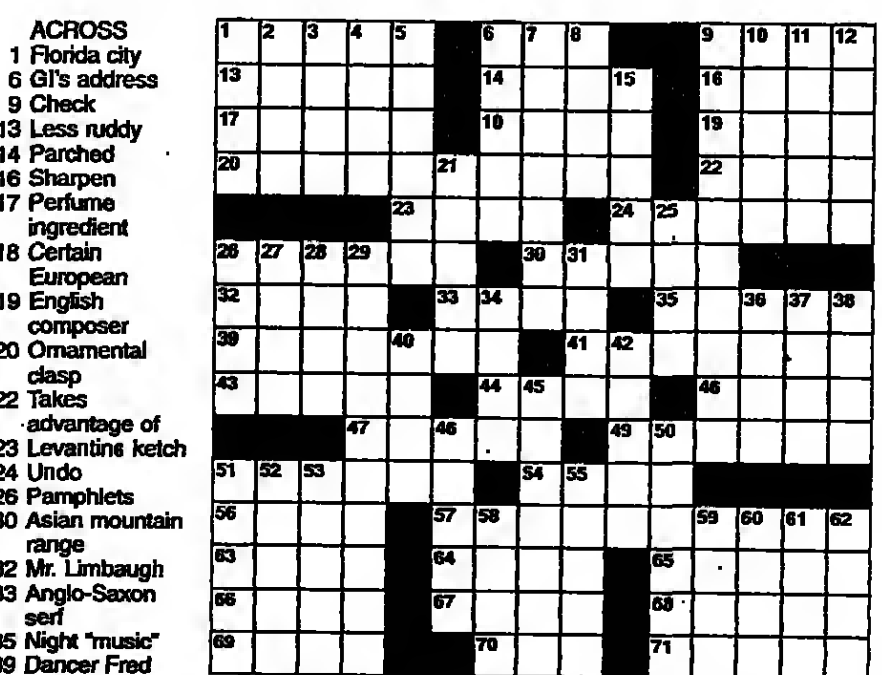
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword



by Eugene Puffenberger

Thursday's Puzzle solved:									
1	Florida city	2	GI's address	3	Check	4	Less ruddy	5	Parched
6	Sharpen	7	Perfume ingredient	8	Certain European	9	English composer	10	Ornamental clasp
11	Takes advantage of	12	Levantine ketch	13	Undo	14	Pamphlets	15	Asian mountain range
16	Mr. Limbaugh	17	Anglo-Saxon serf	18	Night "music"	19	Dancer Fred Astaire	20	Actor Rod Taylor
21	Poet William Butler	22	Concerning	23	Smelting waste	24	Diminutive	25	Sprinkles
26	Flansom	27	Navy jail	28	Smell	29	Lake, NY	30	Predilection
31	Noble male	32	Blind	33	Melville opus	34	Border lake	35	Minneapolis suburb
36	Mountain lake	37	Author's works: abba	38	Khartoum is its capital	39	Bring up	40	Units of work
41	Enlightened words	42	Namely	43	Ancient Greek city	44	TV host	45	Certain marbles
46	Automaton	47	Watery swelling	48	Contributor	49	Reigns	50	Damage
51	Pakistan's official language	52	pro quo	53	Annapolis inst.	54	example (for instance)	55	

56	Take into custody	57	Very, in music	58	Web-footed bird	59	Algerian port	60	Fanatical patriot
61	Nag	62	Tube or sanctum	63	Small anvil	64	Turn inside out	65	Surgeon's beam
66	Alloy	67	Salver	68	Thin Mart's dog	69	British poet	70	For fear that
71	Cornery or Penn Leor	72	Bring up	73	Units of work	74	Enlightened words	75	Namely
76	Ancient Greek city	77	TV host	78	Certain marbles	79	Automaton	80	Watery swelling
81	Contributor	82	Reigns	83	Damage	84	Pakistan's official language	85	pro quo
86	Annapolis inst.	87	example (for instance)	88		89		90	

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HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get your priorities straight today, and focus your attention on whatever is most important to you. Have more confidence in your fine abilities and thereby you can handle any difficulties which come along.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have many options for getting ahead more quickly today, so be sure to give the matter plenty of consideration before making a choice. Later this evening will be good for meeting with knowledgeable people.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Stop daydreaming so much today and get down to practical career activities which will bring you greater success. Try to spend more time with your mate later this evening and he or she will appreciate the increased attention.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You should not allow your emotions to interfere with a business decision or you could make the incorrect decision. Be sure of all the details before signing an important contract or you could miss something critical.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your daily activities can be improved today if you organize them more intelligently. You would be wise to stop talking so much and start acting towards completing any important career activities which have been put aside.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If you want to get into new recreation activities with close friends today, be sure you have the time and money first to spend whatever is necessary. You should not get involved in any risky schemes which could cause difficulties.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Focus your attention on your home

Qatar to boost refining capacity

DOHA (R) — Qatar plans to spend two billion riyals (\$550 million) on expanding output capacity of its lone refinery to 137,000 barrels per day (bpd) from 80,000 by the year 2000, an official report said on Sunday.

The expansion scheme comprises the construction of a 27,000 bpd condensate refinery and the fractionation of condensates produced from Dukhan field with a production capacity of 30,000 bpd, said the state-owned Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC) in its annual report.

"This will increase the total refining capacity to 137,000 bpd...at an estimated cost of two billion riyals," the report said.

Qatar's Messai'ed refinery, south of the capital Doha, currently produces 80,000 bpd of refinery oil products including butagas, super gasoline, lead-free premium gasoline, kerosene and fuel oil.

Around 20,000 bpd of the refined products are consumed locally and 60,000 bpd are exported to the regional market.

"Nine major engineering companies, shortlisted earlier, have submitted

quotations for the expansion project," said a QGPC official.

The bidding companies are Japan's Gasoline Company 1963.T, Chiyoda Corporation 6366.T, Brown and Root Hal.N, Bechtel, Foster Wheeler FWC.N, Abb Lummus Global, Fluor Daniel (Canada), Snampirogetti Eni.Mi and Technip Tecf.Pa.

He said the project will be funded by commercial loans and export credits and the bidders have been asked to present financial packages to back up their bids, said the official.

Saudi prince invests in Jerusalem to counter Jewish construction

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Prince Walid Bin Talal Ben Abdul Aziz announced plans Wednesday to invest in a new Palestinian construction firm for Jerusalem to bolster the Arab presence in the disputed Holy City.

At Quds (Jerusalem) Construction and Investment Company said it "aims to leverage Arab support of the Palestinian presence in the Holy City through the construction of housing, commercial projects."

But the billionaire prince's

office, which said the newly-formed company has several Palestinian businessmen on its board as well as the Arab Bank, did not disclose the amount of his investment or where the firm is to be based.

Jerusalem has been at the core of a four-month deadlock in the Middle East peace process because of Israel's construction of a new Jewish settlement on the outskirts of the city, annexed Arab eastern sector. But Monday, Israel's Interior Ministry announced that

a hotly-contested project to build more Jewish settler homes, this time in the Ras Al Amud neighbourhood of east Jerusalem, has been temporarily halted.

U.S. millionaire Irving Moskowitz has backed off plans to begin construction on the settlement, a neighbourhood of some 11,000 Palestinians, after warnings it would spark an explosion of violence.

The Palestinians were east Jerusalem, which Israel seized in the 1967 Middle East war, as the capital of a

future state of their own.

On Tuesday, the prince's kingdom holding company announced his first Palestinian investment, saying he was to pump \$10 million into hotel and housing projects in the Gaza Strip and cities of the West Bank.

Prince Walid, a nephew of King Fahd, is estimated to be worth \$11 billion. The 40-year-old controls a worldwide investment, banking, construction and leisure empire.

Interest rates on certificates of deposit fall slightly again

By Abdul Salam Gharaibeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Interest on the last batch of certificates of deposit issued by the Central Bank of Jordan were lower by 0.25 points for 3-month certificates and by 0.30 points for 6-month deposits from the rates of the previous batch.

As such, interest have went down by 1.10 points and 1.30 points respectively from the original rates which the Central Bank of Jordan had earlier fixed at 9.25 per cent and 9.5 per cent.

The Central Bank's latest float of JD140 million worth of certificates of deposit attracted offers to buy JD191.7 million of certificates. Banks offered to buy 3-month certificates at between 7.75 per cent and 8.90 per cent and 6-month certificates at between 8.00 per cent and 8.25 per cent. The weighted average for the first category was 8.124 per cent annually and for the second the weighted average was 8.20 per cent annually.

The Central Bank approved the interests at 8.15 per cent for the three months and 8.20 per cent for the six months.

Based on the latest sale, the total amount of certificates of deposit outstanding stands at JD965.7 million. In addition to that there is a JD40 million being the value of a special issue.

Some banks in the Kingdom have responded to the Central Bank's policy by lowering interest rates they charged their customers. Other banks are expected to follow suit.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - 606119									
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179									
QUOTED MARKET PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 30/07/1997									
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	COMPANY'S NAME	P / R	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
298,000	214,500	ANAB BANK	13.6	1.35	45	2140	637210	298.00	7.00
2,340	1,680	JOR. NAT'L. BANK	1.0	0.00	65	69087	141617	2.05	7.65
2,210	800	JOR. NAT'L. BANK	1.0	0.00	1	580	710	6.01	7.4
2,482	2,150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. CO.	6.1	7.69	10	21500	47092	2.20	2.20
3,220	4,420	THE HOUSING CO.	14.6	3.98	9	7163	14991	4.84	4.84
4,180	2,640	JOR. NAT'L. BANK	10.9	0.00	10	564	1914	7.95	3.04
1,050	750	JOR. NAT'L. BANK	4.7	8.86	19	47250	17155	7.38	7.38
1,190	1,480	JOR. NAT'L. BANK	16.0	3.05	64	47528	185704	3.85	3.84
1,190	1,110	JOR. NAT'L. BANK	9	0.00	10	500	410	1.28	1.26
3,820	3,000	JOR. NAT'L. BANK	21.7	0.00	2	150	508	1.37	1.38
2,440	1,000	BEIT AL-HAL (BEITHA)	7	13.49	2	1250	1350	1.11	1.04
2,440	850	BEIT AL-HAL (BEITHA)	9	0.00	2	350	787	1.11	1.04
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 218.31 CHNG: +2.66 231 191952 1088931									
2,240	1,590	JOR. NAT'L. BANK	4.6	12.42	3	421	673	1.61	7.61
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 113.85 CHNG: 0.00 2 421 677									
1,820	1,350	JOR. ELECTRIC. PAR.	8.1	5.95	27	14532	24301	1.66	1.68
2,430	2,150	SHIPPING LINES	14.4	4.81	3	5000	14100	2.81	8.82
1,550	930	BATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	40	42200	19895	1.38	1.44
1,010	820	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.2	6.82	2	450	398	8.8	8.8
810	480	JORDAN TRADING	26.2	0.00	2	6000	3060	1.51	1.31
8,830	6,900	ALARA 1	12.3	7.30	2	1250	8563	6.90	6.85
1,980	1,150	MID. EAST HOTELS	18.3	0.00	4	1350	1620	1.17	1.20
2,230	1,630	UNIFIED CO.	8.1	6.43	5	1500	2565	1.69	5.72
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 108.70 CHNG: +0.49 83 72782 114504									
4,450	3,100	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	26.9	2.76	25	23733	94553	3.97	3.99
4,440	2,710	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	11.0	2.53	3	1000	3540	3.95	3.45
7,050	4,950	ABAS POTASH CO.	14.8	3.15	3	1250	7818	6.25	6.25
10,250	9,040	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.8	8.02	30	10432	101860	9.74	10.08
3,360	3,650	INDUSTRIAL COM. AGR.	9	0.00	4	117	194	1.68	1.66
4,190	3,040	ABAS PHOSPH. MIN.	11.7	4.00	25	10000	12400	1.44	1.15
5,650	4,300	QAR ALDAMA DU. INV.	13.0	4.72	8	50274	266450	5.10	5.30
3,850	2,400	ABAS ALUM. IND.	5.7	10.20	10	1274	1090	2.40	2.41
560	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	4	5627	2647	4.5	4.9
1,310	1,000	ABAS PAPER COM. LTD.	31.8	0.00	4	850	866	1.03	1.04
770	510	NATIONAL INDS.	9	0.00	3	6000	3120	51	52
1,290	510	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	35	17200	9515	53	55
530	530	JOR. NUCLEAR INDS.	9	0.00	3	4250	2647	4.5	4.9
2,980	1,520	UNIV. CHEM. INDS.	14.0	6.45	5	3100	4864	1.52	1.55
1,050	2,130	KATL. CABLE WIRE, HYAC	40.1	0.00	1	2500	8750	2.50	2.50
940	530	JOR. SULPHUR CHEM.	9	0.00	17	8450	9467	60	62
2,670	1,120	ABAS PHARM. CHEM.	17.0	5.26	8	2650	3796	1.34	1.23
2,020	1,080	UNIV. MOON. INDS.	9	0.00	20	7250	8198	1.12	1.13
1,310	980	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	14.1	9.52	22	7100	7139	1.12	1.13
1,430	1,300	BATL. CHLORINE	15.3	4.12	61	109950	17931	1.51	1.62
1,070	810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.4	0.00	11	4750	3990	83	84
2,090	1,340	EL-DAY READY MEAT	47.9	0.00	11	1015	1015	1.04	1.31
1,330	1,080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.2	0.00	5	2000	2240	1.14	1.13
1,260	860	UNION CH. & VEG.	41.4	0.00	2	1400	1274	1.90	1.91
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 123.92 CHNG: +0.43 319 285566 750110									
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 166.87 CHNG: +1.32 636 556221 1954221									
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 30/07/1997									
640	350	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	1	1000	360	36	36
640	410	JOR. TRADE FNC.	11.2	0.00	10	13650	5733	42	42
1,550	1,010	ABAS FOR INVESTMENT	75.4	0.00	3	10000	12400	1.44	1.15
950	540	JOR. FIN. INV. CO.	9	0.00	14	21050	12693	60	61
620	370	ABAS FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	17	25750	11331	43	44
950	720	AL-SABAR INV. 757	9	0.00	12	45783	27477	94	94
950	610	AL-DHULAT INV. 757	62.4	0.00	6	14000	5680	56	56
480	200	JOR. INDS. MATCH-JENCO	9	0.00	5	6900	1802	26	27
730	510	ABAS FOOD & FIB.	9	0.00	2	690	365	52	52
670	380	ABAS INTL. INV. CO.	46.1	0.00	3	1740	1460	73	74
750	400	KATL. MULT. ENG. HANICO	9	0.00	35	137687	68278	48	50
640	410	RAYSAK OILS & HOUTLOS	9	0.00	1	250	148	41	42
820	710	JORDAN STEEL	32.5	6.78	12	25160	8818	44	45
730	580	NIDEAST PHARM. 757	2	0.00	3	1700	62	62	61
670	550	KATL. PHARM. 857	2	0.00	32	89450	40618	61	60
600	400	ENG. ENG.	9	0.00	12	25160	8818	44	45
860	730	INDOS. CERAMIC	19.7	0.00	4	6850	5119	73	75
820	590	KATL. POLYMER	8	0.00	1	50	11	61	61
1,000	730	AL-KHAYMA INV. 757	9	0.00	11	12700	6479	75	75
860	590	NTO EAST COMPLEX	8.0	15.38	26	28600	25240	66	65
GRAND TOTAL 205 465060 240919									
1: New 12 months high 2: New 12 months low 3: Listed during the past 12 months 4: P/R ratio is 100 or more 5: Weighted P/R 6: Earning 10 per cent or more for the most recent year									

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"My boss habitually takes credit for everything I do. Today I sneezed and she wiped her nose!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Havel Arnold and Miler Arbiter

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BEATA
SOUHE
COAZID
DASSIT

WHEN SHE WAS STOOD UP FOR LUNCH IT LEFT HER WITH--

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

Answers tomorrow!

Saturday's Jumble: DRYLY ELATE ADRIET DEBATE
Answer: What she enjoyed after winning the blue ribbon - A RED LETTER DAY

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Countdown to Athens World Athletics Championships

Officials hope to catch Athens sprinters speeding

ATHENS (R) — In a city where it can sometimes take half an hour to move 100 metres in heavy traffic, it is fitting that one of the most eagerly-awaited races at the World Athletics Championships will be the men's sprint.

Thanks to laser technology, fans in Athens will be able to see what speeds the likes of 100 metres champion Donovan Bailey and his rivals are hitting for the first time.

The laser could be an important step in making athletics more attractive to spectators in the stadium and television viewers around the world.

It could certainly answer the question about whether Bailey or American 200 and 400 metres Olympic champion Michael Johnson is the fastest human on the planet.

Organisers hope to display the speed on television soon after races like the 100, 200 and 400 metres and the results will be announced to the Athens crowd.

Until now speeds have been analysed by studying video. The fastest times in the men's 100 have been around 12 metres per second (43 kph). Bailey

was clocked at 43 kph (27 mph) when he set his world record in the Olympic final last year — said to be the fastest any human has ever run.

Like policemen trying to catch speeding cars, organisers have placed lasers at the end of the straights and will aim them at the lower backs of the athletes — the best place for an accurate reading of peak velocity.

Bailey and his rivals are likely to be running around the speed limit for most residential areas around the world.

"The 100 metres is the glamour event. The 100 metres and the sprint relay are the two most watched events at any Olympic games or world championships," Bailey said.

"We have a lot of attention now and new things like this laser test to find out who runs the fastest top speed will help even more."

It is important to put sporting performances into perspective. The remarkable talents of an athlete can sometimes be lost on the watching public when he or she is competing at a level where standards are so high. Television can often make perfor-

mances look slower and easier than they really are.

Make a group of talented schoolboy 400 metres runners start a race against one of the top middle-distance stars when he is entering the final lap of a 1,500 race and the astonishing pace of the last lap would become much clearer.

The real speed of the 100 metres can get lost on spectators unless they are standing right at the side of the track when the sprinters flash by.

At a time when athletics is facing increasing competition from other sports on television, the sport needs such innovation to improve its appeal.

Similar experiments have worked well in other sports. Measuring the speed of serves in tennis, for example, has become popular with fans. Supporters often look to the electronic board displaying the speed when a player hits an ace.

Perhaps it is also time for athletics officials to look at other ideas which will make the sport easier to follow such as printing the names and countries of competitors clearly on their vests.



Workmen put up flags in front of the Athens Olympic stadium as final preparations are undertaken for the 6th IAAF World Athletics Championships July 29. The event which opens on August 1 and continues until August 10, will see athletes from 198 countries take part (Reuters photo)

Ageless Ottey bids to become oldest ever champion

ATHENS (AFP) — Jamaican sprint veteran Merlene Ottey is on course for being remembered as never winning an Olympic title in five Olympic games but should she win here she will create a more preferable piece of history as the oldest ever world champion.

The 37-year-old Ottey, who saw her last chance of Olympic gold disappear in the final 30 metres of the 200 metres as Marie-Jose Perec stormed past her, would easily beat the Czech Republic's Helena Fibingerova who won the 1983 shot put title at the age of 34.

Were Ottey, who ran in the 1984 Olympics as Ottey-page during her ill-fated marriage to hurdler Nat, to finish in the medal positions, she would still hold the record for oldest medallist as the 1984 Olympic champion Maricica Puica took silver in the 1987 3,000 metres aged 37 and 34 days — Ottey will be 37 years old and 83 days when the championships open on August 1.

Ottey, Monte Carlo-based but who has hinted she may return to her long time home in Rome and become an Italian national, has had so many near misses in the past that it is easy to forget she has won the last two 200 metre world titles — the last one because Gwen Torrence was disqualified.

There has never been much love lost between Ottey and the American sprinters. Torrence and Gail Devers, particularly after she was deprived of Olympic 100 metres gold in Atlanta in a photo finish with Devers — and the Jamaican brought it back out into the open in Rome in March.

"I never said Devers shouldn't get the 100m gold medal," said the Jamaican, "simply that it would have been fairer to award two equal first places."

"That way I too would have had the gold medal I deserved. However, we were in the United States and they wanted to favour the American."

"I felt robbed. I know that sounds as if I'm a sore loser but I just couldn't believe that she had beaten me for a second time like that," Ottey added.

Ottey, who has garnered 30 championship medals since she took bronze in the 1980 100 metres Olympic final in Moscow, has been restricted in her appearances this season because like Algerian 1,500 metres world champion Noureddine Morceli she has suffered from Anaemia.

However, she has posted the fourth fastest time over 100 metres, 10.96sec in the Jamaican trials in Kingston and stands a good chance of enlarging on her record haul of 13 world medals.

Ottey, who has cast her talents into bringing out a fashion line, is dismissive of the tag of "choker" that has been given to her by several pundits saying she was not always the form favourite.

"I have been the favourite, yes, but sometimes only because I have had the public's support. I will always remember the reception I received when I got my first 200 metres world championship gold medal in Stuttgart ... the pain of losing in all those other finals was washed away in a tide of emotion," Ottey said.

A woman who has almost touched greatness, indeed could have been acclaimed the greatest if she had had more of a 'Midas touch' when it came to the medal positions in finals, will not want to bow out of a major championship with nothing to show for it — a sign that it is time for that fat lady to sing farewell.

Ottey would surely prefer Beethoven's 'ode to joy' to be played as she grabs a third world title — whether it is the 100 or 200 metres not as she will revel in being the oldest medallist in town.

Masterkova comes out of the cold

ATHENS (AFP) — When Svetlana Masterkova first came out of the Siberia cold there was little hint that she was going to set the world alight.

When she first appeared as a 16-year-old, Masterkova ran her first 800m in 2:04.59 and barely raised an eyebrow. But the steady determination of the Russian, overcoming a host of injury problems seemingly caused by a weak bone structure, finally began to pay dividends.

In 1991 she finished eighth in the world championships in Tokyo but finished as the fastest 800m runner that year thanks to a 1:57.23. It lifted her to the number one spot in the ex-Soviet Union.

But it was last year in Atlanta that the 29-year-old proved that she was one of the greatest middle-distance runners of all time when she repeated the classic double victory of Tatyana Kazankina in the Montreal Olympics at 800m and 1,500m.

It was an amazing return to glory for a runner, who when the Soviet Union was starting to break up, was forgotten and seemingly resigned to being simply a footnote in athletics history.

There was no place for her in the unified team in the Barcelona Olympics but Masterkova had not forced herself through painful training to just fade away.

A wedding, a baby and a move to the sunshine of Alicante in Spain, brought a dramatic change in fortune for the Russian runner.

"Everything happens so fast. So much so that sometimes I think I could have enjoyed things even more," she admits.

In the winter of 1995/96 the Russian federation recalled her to the European indoor championships in Stockholm. A bronze medal was all the encouragement Masterkova needed.

"For the first time I realised that if I could stay injury-free I could return to the level of 1993," she explained. In 1996 she went way beyond that with her golden double.

In Athens Masterkova has decided that a repeat of her Atlanta success is asking too much.

Instead she will run in only the 1,500 metres.

So far she is only fifth fastest this year, nearly five seconds behind the 3:58.07 set by Britain's Kelly Holmes in Sheffield in June, but the 1996 woman athlete of the year is convinced she has another gold medal in her.

Another extraordinary performance in the heat of Athens will leave Masterkova standing where she has always wanted to be since those freezing days training in Siberia — atop the podium.

Aouita inspires Moroccans to surpass Kenyans

ATHENS (AFP) — The Athletics World Championships which start here on Saturday may well signal that 13 years after Moroccan said Aouita won the 5,000 metres Olympic title his compatriots have taken the Kenyan crown of the best middle distance runners in the world.

Aouita, who turned middle distance running on its head by setting six world records, did have a brief and tempestuous term in charge of Moroccan athletics before settling in America but it is more his feats on the track that have inspired the Aouitas of today — dual world indoor 1500 metres champion Hicham El Guerrouj and former 10,000 metres world record holder Salah Hissou.

"Sal's lasting legacy is that his supreme ability made young people in Morocco sit up and say running round a track was not pointless and boring. It brought glamour, glory to the country, and riches," Aziz Daouda, the technical director of the national federation, said.

The 24-year-old Hissou, who was made a tribal chief after breaking the world record last year in Brussels, says that Aouita, who also won the 1987 5,000 metres world title, had a profound impact on him.

"I owe said so much because without his feats on the track I would never have thought of running. Breaking the world record was down to said, now I must drive myself hard like he always did to retake it off Haile (Gebreselassie)," Hissou said.

However, Daouda says this year is not about records

but gold medals. Hissou could only take bronze in Atlanta and El Guerrouj fell at the start of the final lap of the 1,500. The 10,000 metres gold that Khalid Skah took in the 1992 Olympics was their last major outdoor title.

That drought should come to an end here, even if Hissou's dreams of winning the 10,000 metres title suffered a major blow when Gebreselassie reversed his decision and decided to run here but El Guerrouj looks as if he has the mastering of three time world champion Noureddine Morceli in the 1500.

Should El Guerrouj prevail, it will again be thanks to Aouita who during his reign in charge created several schools for promising young athletes, where they have their own rooms and a mosque, the main one being Ifrane where Hissou trained prior to his world record.

"We looked at his method of running and changed his style completely and at Brussels we saw the positive result," Daouda said.

This scientific approach against the more naturally gifted Kenyans may take several years to reach its climax but one thing is certain — but for Aouita, Moroccan athletics would probably still be looking for a successor to the 1960 Olympic silver medallist Rhadi Ben Abdesselem.



A worker pulls an electronic scoreboard in Athens' Olympic stadium as final preparations are undertaken for the 6th IAAF World Athletics Championships. The event which opens on August 1 and continues to August 10, will see athletes from 198 countries take part (Reuters photo)

Competition — the least of Sotomayor's problems

ATHENS (AFP) — For Cuban superstar Javier Sotomayor, the competition is the least of his problems.

Injury is the biggest fear for the 29-year-old physical education teacher.

In Atlanta last year the injury-prone Sotomayor failed to live up to his Houdini image when he lost his Olympic crown after just one successful clearance.

The Cuban, hampered again by knee and ankle injuries, was forced to pack it up and trudge disconsolately off after failing at 2.32m — a height he would normally clear in his sleep.

Sotomayor is the only

man in the world with Olympic, world indoor and outdoor titles to his name as well as the world record but they have all come at a high physical price.

It all stems from his rapid approach and powerful take-off which puts excessive strain on his left ankle — his take-off leg. It also causes pressure on the knee. Last year it got so bad he had to have the knee drained because of the build up of fluids.

At times, as he bobbles round the infield, the Cuban looks anything but a prime athlete.

His coach Guillermo de La Torre Duarte said: "He's always injured and that's become a psycholog-

ical problem for him. He's not the sort of guy to give up but he feels bad."

For Sotomayor, the World Championships offer him the chance to erase the nightmare of the 1996 season.

Robert Santiesteban, Cuba's Athletics Federation commissioner, has no doubts Sotomayor will be back on top.

"He is training in the IAAF regional development centre in Salinas, Puerto Rico. He will be a world champion in Athens," Santiesteban boasts.

But only if his weakened left ankle can withstand another punishing competition.

Masterkova has decided that a repeat of her Atlanta success is asking too much.

Instead she will run in only the 1,500 metres.

So far she is only fifth fastest this year, nearly five seconds behind the 3:58.07 set by Britain's Kelly Holmes in Sheffield in June, but the 1996 woman athlete of the year is convinced she has another gold medal in her.

Another extraordinary performance in the heat of Athens will leave Masterkova standing where she has always wanted to be since those freezing days training in Siberia — atop the podium.

Sotomayor is the only

man in the world with

Olympic, world indoor and

outdoor titles to his name

as well as the world record

but they have all come at

a high physical price.

It all stems from his rapid

approach and powerful take-

off which puts excessive

strain on his left ankle —

his take-off leg. It also

causes pressure on the

knee. Last year it got so

bad he had to have the

knee drained because of

the build up of fluids.

At times, as he bobbles

round the infield, the

Cuban looks anything

but a prime athlete.

His coach Guillermo de

La Torre Duarte said:

"He's always injured

and that's become a

psychological problem

for him. He's not the

sort of guy to give up

but he feels bad."

For Sotomayor, the

World Championships

offer him the chance

to erase the nightmare

of the 1996 season.

Robert Santiesteban,

Cuba's Athletics

Federation commissioner,

has no doubts

Sotomayor will be

back on top.

"He is training in the

IAAF regional develop-

ment centre in Salinas,

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Kuerten makes strong start in Montreal

MONTREAL (R) — French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil made an impressive start at the \$2.3 million Canadian Open Tuesday, firing bullets past overmatched American Jonathan Stark to claim a 6-2 6-4 victory.

Playing his first match on hard courts since losing in the third round of the Lipton Championships in March, the sixth-seeded Kuerten broke the 70th-ranked Stark's serve in the third game of the match and took command by winning 10 of the next 13 games.

Fourth-seeded Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov, playing his first hard-court match since New Year's Eve, started slowly but came on strong to beat American Vince Spadea 4-6 6-3 7-6 (8-6).

In a first-round match that paired two players who won tournaments last Sunday, France's Fabrice Santoro rallied from a 1-4 third-set deficit to oust

14th-seeded Jim Courier 7-5 4-6 6-4.

Santoro, ranked 50th, captured a lower-level challenge event on clay in Newcastle, England, playing two matches on Sunday to do so, while Courier triumphed at the ATP Tour event in Los Angeles.

Other seeded players winning second-round matches Tuesday included eighth seed Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands, a 7-6 (7-3) 6-1 winner over South African Neville Godwin, and 11th-seeded Patrick Rafter of Australia, who beat France's Olivier Delaite 6-4 6-1.

The key to the 20-year-old Kuerten's victory over Stark was an endless stream of great passing shots. Kuerten was so effective that Stark was able to win only eight of 27 points when he went to the net.

"I'm confident right now," said the lanky Brazilian, whose record since the third week of June was only

1-4. "I'm feeling too good on the court, hitting my best shots and serving well."

The Kafelnikov-Spadea match was one of drastic momentum swings as the American led 6-4 3-1 only to see the Russian win the second set and take a 5-1 third-set lead. Spadea battled back to 5-all but Kafelnikov eventually prevailed, winning on his fifth match point.

"It's very tough playing on hard courts again because the bounce is not as high as clay," said Kafelnikov, who played 11 of his last 13 events on clay. The other two were on grass.

"The ball comes much faster. I only had one day of practice but now I have a day off and I'll practice and be a lot better for my next match."

Courier, perhaps worn out after beating 15th-ranked Krajicek, world number three Goran Ivanisevic and number eight Thomas Enqvist to win in Los

Angeles, conceded that Santoro, "hung in there and played better at the end."

Courier lost a point when he gestured at the umpire after earlier getting a warning for verbal abuse over a remark the official believed was aimed at him, but that courier insisted was directed toward himself. The point gave Santoro a 30-love lead when he trailed 3-4 in the final set.

Santoro, who flew home to Paris Sunday after winning in England, and rushed around doing errands Monday before flying to Montreal, only practised for 30 minutes on the hard courts at Jerry Park before his match.

"I was tired and not feeling too well physically," he said, "but I still thought I give it my all."

"Maybe Jim knew that I'd just come from England and the clay courts and didn't expect me to fight so hard from the first point to the last,"

2nd Division basketball tourney concludes Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Although two more matches remain in the 2nd Division Basketball Championship which concludes Friday, Al Jeel have already secured the sole qualifying berth to the First Division as of the 1996 season.

Al Ashrafieh who had defeated Al Raya to top the 2nd Division in the first round lost their latest match 72-60 to Al Raya who meet Al Wihdat Friday.

Al Jeel are the only unbeaten team of the four-team final round and will

Standings						
Team	P	W	L	SE	SA	PTS
Jeel	2	2	-	139	120	4
Wihdat	2	1	1	126	127	3
Raya	2	1	1	135	126	3
Ashrafieh	2	-	2	114	141	2

next face winless Al Ashrafieh Thursday.

Al Jeel beat their most serious rivals Al Wihdat 73-57 in their latest match.

The four teams qualified to the final round after they got the top two places in their respective groups, which included six teams each.

The 12 competing teams represented both Second and Third Division clubs playing in two groups. Group A included Al Jeel, Abu Nusair, Homentmen, Al Wihdat and Shihai.

Group B included Gazzer Hashem, Al Raya, Qamin, Ebbin, Sama and Al Ashrafieh.

Al Jeel who were runners-up in the second division last year, were the only unbeaten team in the preliminary round.

The First Division now includes Jazireh, Ahli, Onhodovi, and Jalil who will be joined by Hussein and this year's newly promoted team, Al Watani and Yarmouk were relegated to the Second Division this year.

The Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) rules stipulate that second division teams be required to register under-16 teams as a prerequisite for participation as of the coming season.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Bulgarian Lechkov signs for Besiktas

ISTANBUL (R) — Bulgarian international midfielder Jordan Lechkov joined Turkish side Besiktas from Marseille on Tuesday. Lechkov, who played in the 1994 World Cup final, spent a year with the French club after joining from Hamburg. "The fact that Besiktas will be playing in the European Cup this year has a great effect on my coming here," Lechkov said. A club spokesman said the player signed a two-year deal worth \$608,000 but the transfer fee was not disclosed.

Security high ahead of Olympic vote

ATHENS (AFP) — The organisers of the World Championships which start here on Saturday have drafted in 8,000 policemen, taking no chances of a terrorist atrocity ahead of September's final vote for the 2004 Olympics for which Athens is a contender. "The protection will cover people, buildings such as hotels, and also the airport and train stations," General Nikolaos Relakis, the event's security chief said. "It is an enormous task as we have almost 10,000 people to look after, such as the athletes and coaches," he added. Most of the hotels have a huge police presence around them with even policemen stationed on each floor of the establishments. In a separate move Primo Nebiolo, the president of the IAAF, invited the mayors of the five 'finalists' for the Olympic vote to come and watch the athletics. Nebiolo, who is keen for his home city Rome to win the vote, asked the mayors of Cape Town, Buenos Aires, Stockholm, Rome and Athens to the championships — the final vote takes place in Lausanne on September 5.

Salt Lake Olympic boss resigns

SALT LAKE CITY (AFP) — Thomas Welch resigned as president of the chief executive officer of the Salt Lake Olympic Organising Committee on Tuesday, eight days after he was charged with domestic violence. Welch, the man credited with bringing the 2002 Winter Olympics to Utah, announced his resignation at a news conference in Salt Lake. Welch faces a charge of misdemeanor charge of domestic violence battery for allegedly getting into a

scuffle with his wife, Alma, during an argument last month. Utah lost out to Nagano, Japan for the 1998 Games before landing the 2002 Games.

Olympic sponsorship deal ready

NEW YORK (AFP) — General Motors Corporation, NBC television and the U.S. Olympic Committee are to unveil details of an "unprecedented" Olympic sponsorship arrangement, the companies announced Tuesday. A GM spokesman said the company would sponsor NBC television broadcasts of future Olympic Games. The Wall Street Journal Europe reported that the deal would include as much \$700 million in sponsorship fees and TV advertising. The arrangement would reportedly cover the Sydney Games in 2000, the 2002 winter games in Salt Lake City, the 2004 Summer, 2006 Winter and 2008 Summer Olympics, for which sites have not yet been selected.

Brazil planning Lusophone Cup

BRASILIA (AFP) — Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso announced Tuesday that his country hoped to organise a football tournament comprising Portuguese-speaking countries in 2000 to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the discovery of Brazil by Portuguese navigator Cabral.

Zamorano thanks Ronaldo

MILAN (AFP) — Inter Milan's Ivan Zamorano thanked new teammate Ronaldo Tuesday for not insisting on taking the Chilean's cherished number nine shirt. Ronaldo, the number nine in the Brazilian national team, has already begun wearing Inter's number 10 shirt. Zamorano said: "It's not true to say that Ronaldo has left me the number nine. The number nine was already mine. The amicable arrangement over the shirt has nevertheless caused trouble for some. Counterfeiters in Rome, hoping for a brisk trade with tourists, have now been left with boxes of fake Inter shirts with Ronaldo's name and the number nine on the back."

Huber, Pierce struggle at Carlsbad tournament

CARLSBAD, California (R) — Anke Huber and Mary Pierce both survived stiff challenges to post three-set victories Tuesday and advance to the second round of the \$450,000 Toshiba Classic women's tennis tournament.

Fifth seed Huber of Germany beat Bulgarian Magdalena Maleeva 7-5 1-6 6-3, while France's sixth-seeded Pierce overcame American Amy Frazier 6-3 6-7 (6-8) 6-3.

In contrast, promising American Venus Williams drubbed Argentine Florencia Labat 6-3 6-2 to set up a teenage showdown against World No. 1 Martina Hingis. The 17-year-old Williams, ranked 64th but heralded as one of the next great American women's players, downplayed Wednesday's match against the 16-year-old Swiss phenom.

"It's nothing special, just another match," said Williams, who chose to go through qualifying rather than accept a wildcard, and posted three wins to earn her way into the draw.

Hingis has a 50-1 mark this year with eight tournament victories, including grand slam titles at the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

Huber advanced despite losing serve eight times and committing 11 double faults in the one hour, 50-minute struggle against Maleeva, who also lost serve eight times.

Pierce was pleased with

her victory.

"It was a great match for me, she really made me play," the 10th-ranked Pierce said after the 2:20 baseline duel.

About the only thing Williams lost during her

romp over Labat was a battle with her beads when about 20 purple, green and white ones fell off her corn-rowed head late in the second set.

Despite Williams' slow start as a professional and Hingis's meteoric rise to the

top, the upcoming match could offer a glimpse into a future rivalry. Williams lost the only match she has played against Hingis, 6-4 6-2 in the third round of this year's Lipton Championships.

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Bernard Heinz (R) of the Luxembourg FC Grevenmacher in action against Tomislav Erceg (L) from Croatia FC Hajduk during their qualification game for the UEFA European League in Split. Hajduk defeated Grevenmacher 2-0 (Reuters photo)

Son of Maradona signs for Napoli

NAPLES (R) — The 12-year-old son of Diego Maradona has signed as a junior for Napoli, the side his father took to two Italian league titles, club officials said on Tuesday.

Napoli said Diego Armando Junior, who has been legally recognised as Maradona's son by an Italian court although the Argentine has always maintained the boy is not his, was taken to the club by his mother Cristiana Sinagra.

The boy will begin training with one of Napoli's junior squads next season. Maradona was ordered

in 1992 to pay maintenance of around five million lire (\$3,100) a month to former lover Sinagra. In 1995 he appealed against the original court order but lost.

The signing of Diego Armando Junior, who shows more than a passing resemblance to his father, should prove popular with local fans. Maradona, at his peak one of the world's greatest players, became a hero in Naples when he led the city's previously nondescript Serie A sides to the league title in 1987 and 1990.

The side has never regained that glory since. Maradona left the southern port city under a cloud in 1991 after testing positive for cocaine. He was banned from

soccer worldwide for 15 months and his comeback turned sour when

he failed another dope test during the 1994 World Cup.

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Turkish riot policemen chase Islamist demonstrators marching through the capital Tuesday to challenge Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz's effort to curtail religious education. Eleven people, including five members of the media who were reportedly badly beaten by police, were taken to hospital (Reuters photo)

Turk government adamant on closing Islamic schools

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz said Wednesday his government was determined to push through legislation to close Islamic schools, despite a violent protest denouncing the plan.

"Our government is determined to put into force the reforms which will introduce eight years of compulsory education... despite an atmosphere of terror, illegal actions and threats," Mr. Yilmaz said during a press conference.

On Tuesday, some 5,000 Islamists from all over Turkey demonstrated in the capital for over nine hours against the legislation, which includes plans to extend compulsory education from five to eight years.

The law, which would be enforced by the next school year, would automatically close sections of the state-run Imam-Hatip secondary schools, which provide Islamic education.

The bill is to be presented to parliament over the coming days. Mr. Yilmaz said the Islamist Welfare Party led by former Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan considered Imam-Hatip students as his militants and the schools as institutions where Islamists militants are recruited.

Welfare is staunchly opposed to the bill, because the targeted schools train the country's Imams and provide the party with their future leaders.

Mr. Yilmaz said the reforms were the most important in Turkey since the country embraced multi-party politics in 1946, adding that they were vital to the country's future.

Journalists protest police beatings

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish journalists protested in Istanbul Wednesday against the beating of their colleagues by police during an Islamist demonstration in Ankara.

Around 200 reporters gathered outside the headquarters of the Turkish journalists' association in Istanbul shouting, "The free press will not be silenced."

Five journalists were taken to hospital after being attacked by police and protesters as thousands of Islamists protested against secularist education plans Tuesday. Police officers launched baton attacks at television cameramen. Several suffered head wounds.

One reporter had a trouser leg ripped off by a police dog. Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz expressed his regret over the incidents.

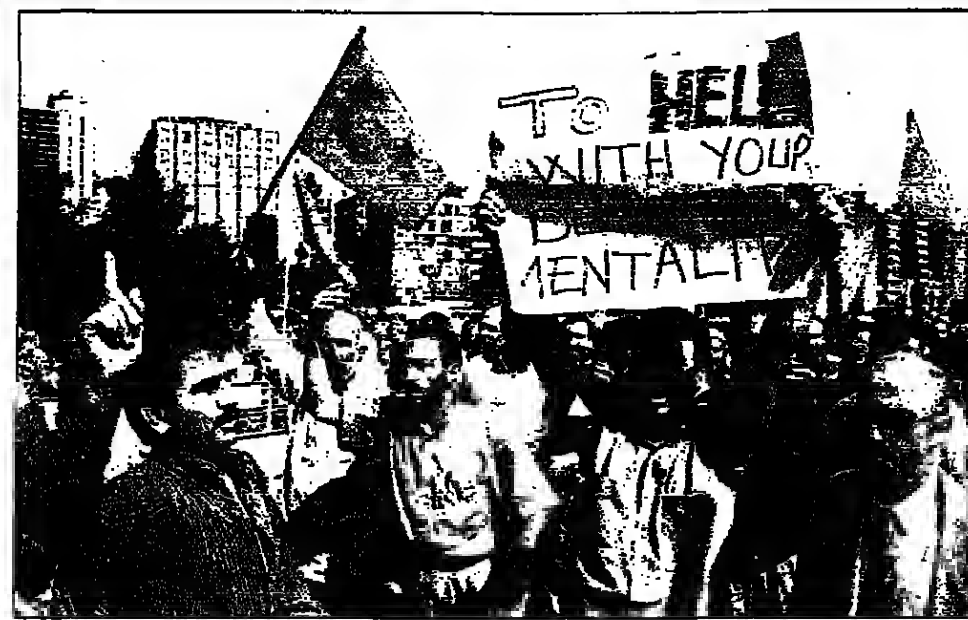
"In the name of the government I want to say get well to the journalists who were injured during the events in Ankara," Mr. Yilmaz said at a news conference.

"That such an unfortunate event should come to pass while we are in power is a cause of sadness," he said.

Ankara's governor said Wednesday three policemen had been suspended in connection with the beatings.

The Islamists were demonstrating against government plans to curtail religious education, a move strongly backed by the country's largely secularist media.

The Interior Ministry said reporters would hold another protest against the beatings later Wednesday in Ankara.



Islamist demonstrators shout slogans and carry banners protesting against Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz's effort to curtail religious education during a march through the capital Ankara Tuesday (Reuters photo)

Poison gas may have been released from undisclosed Iraqi site — Pentagon

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A plume of poison gas may have been released from a previously undisclosed Iraqi chemical weapons site that was bombed by U.S. warplanes during the Gulf war, a Pentagon spokesman said Wednesday.

A preliminary CIA model of the dispersion of chemical agents from the site at Ukhaydir in southern Iraq found it was unlikely to have reached the thousands of U.S. troops across the border in Saudi Arabia, the official said.

U.N. weapons experts announced the existence of the Ukhaydir chemical weapons storage site Tuesday at a hearing in Buffalo, New York of a presidential panel on Gulf war illnesses, the New York Times reported.

Iraq informed U.N. weapons inspectors only recently that hundreds of rockets filled with mustard gas and nerve gas were stored at the site during the war, the New York Times said.

During a visit to the site in April, U.N. weapons inspectors found damaged 155-mm rocket shells that may once have contained mustard gas as well as

bomb craters, the officials said.

The Ukhaydir site was bombed by U.S. warplanes February 14, 1991. "The CIA has done some modeling," said Air Force Captain Tom Gilroy, a Pentagon spokesman.

"Their determination is that the release would not have reached U.S. troops about 300 kilometres away."

The CIA and the Pentagon now will apply a more sophisticated set of models to try to determine with greater precision whether poison gas may have reached U.S. troops, he said.

Until now, the Pentagon's inquiry into possible exposure of U.S. troops to deadly chemical agents has focused on Khamisiyah, an Iraqi ammunition dump where U.S. troops inadvertently demolished rockets filled with nerve gas.

After months of work devising more sophisticated models to track gas released in that incident, the Pentagon concluded that nearly 100,000 U.S. troops were exposed to trace amounts of nerve gas. Investigators also found that the poison gas cloud travelled farther than initially believed, nearly 300

kilometres, and that it was replenished by the evaporation of chemical agents on the ground.

The Khamisiyah incident was disclosed just over a year ago by the Pentagon, which had insisted for years that no U.S. troops were exposed to Iraqi chemical agents during or after the war.

The Pentagon denies claims in the face of complaints by tens of thousands of Gulf war veterans of unexplained illnesses that they attributed to their service in the 1991 war with Iraq.

Because there has been little medical research on the subject, the jury is still out on whether exposure to trace amounts of nerve gas can have long-term adverse health effects.

In light of their Khamisiyah findings, the Pentagon and CIA plan to reexamine their analyses of other Iraqi chemical weapons targets struck during the allied air campaign.

The CIA had concluded previously that plumes from the Muhammadiyah and Al Muthanna chemical weapons plants, which were bombed during the war, would not have reached U.S. troops.

3 people die in bomb blast in Algeria; forces kill 8 Islamists

ALGIERS (AFP) — Eight Islamist rebels were killed this week in one of several raids by Algerian security forces, a newspaper said Wednesday.

A regional guerrilla leader, Abu Meriem, died in the operation Monday and Tuesday near Ksar Al Boukhari, 150 kilometres south of Algiers, the paper L'Authentique reported.

The security sweep comes hard on the heels of a vast operation in Hattatba, 50 kilometres southwest of Algiers. Press reports say around 100 Islamist guerrillas have been killed and another 300 have surrendered.

However, there has been no official confirmation of the operations.

The Al Watan newspaper

also said Wednesday that three people, including two girls aged 10 and 12, were killed and 11 others were wounded when two bombs exploded Tuesday.

The girls were torn apart by a bomb placed near a house on the road to Chrea, near Blida, 50 kilometres south of Algiers.

One person was killed and 11 others were injured when a bomb exploded in a cafe in Sidi Bel Abbes, 400 kilometres southwest of the capital, the paper said.

The bomb had been placed in a bag and left outside the building.

On Monday two other young girls, aged six and eight, were killed when a mine exploded in Maassouma, near Medea, as they tended their flock of

sheep, and another person was injured in a bomb blast in Sidi Moussa, south of Algiers, the newspaper said.

More than 60,000 people have died in unrest which has rocked this North African nation since Islamists took up arms after the army-backed government cancelled elections that an Islamist party appeared poised to win in January 1992.

In the latest massacre, Islamist militants killed 51 people overnight Sunday and kidnapped 11 women and girls in Larbaa, 35 kilometres south of Algiers.

That massacre brought to more than 550 the number of civilians slain in attacks attributed to armed Islamist groups since legislative elections were held, June 5.

Kurdish leader holds talks with U.S. officials

CAIRO (AP) — An Iraqi Kurdish leader has discussed with senior U.S. officials ways to end fighting between rival Kurdish groups and the opposition's attempts to topple President Saddam Hussein's government, his group said Wednesday.

A statement faxed to the Associated Press (AP) by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said Jalal Talabani met Tuesday with Samuel Berger, President Bill Clinton's chief National Security advisor and other senior officials at the White House.

It is the first high level meeting between a Kurdish leader and administration officials since fighting erupted between the PUK and its main rival, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), more than a year ago.

Top on their agenda was efforts to bring about "a durable peace" to Iraq's northern Kurdish enclave which is controlled by the PUK and Massoud Barzani's KDP, the statement said.

The KDP drove PUK forces out of parts of northern Iraq last August with the help of the Iraqi army.

The two sides agreed to a U.S.-brokered cease-fire in October. The U.S., Turkey, and Britain have been mediating between the two groups to try to strengthen the truce.

Mr. Talabani, who is in Washington on the invitation of the state department, was reportedly assured by the U.S. officials of Washington's support for his group.

Saudi pleads not guilty in U.S. court to bomb plot

WASHINGTON (R) — A Saudi dissident allegedly linked to the 1996 bombing in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 U.S. servicemen pleaded not guilty Wednesday to unrelated criminal charges of plotting an earlier unsuccessful attack.

Hani Al Sayegh, who was deported from Canada last month, repudiated an earlier agreement in which he would have pleaded guilty to the single conspiracy charge of plotting to kill Americans in Saudi Arabia in return for his cooperation with the U.S. investigation into the Khobar Towers bombing.

The judge set a jury trial

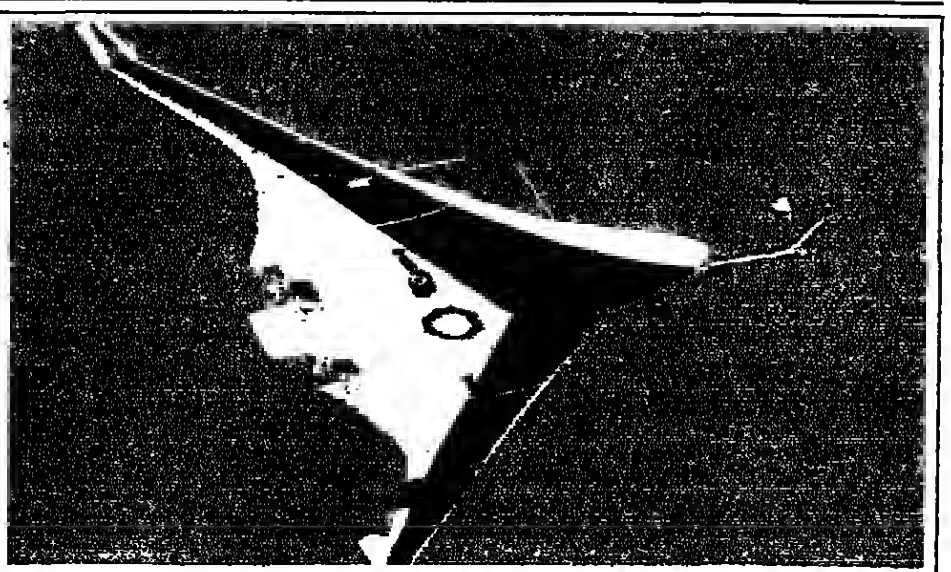
for November 3 on the charge of conspiring to commit murder and "international terrorism," starting in January 1994 and lasting until December 1995. He ordered Mr. Sayegh, 28, to remain in jail without bond.

After the court hearing, Defence Attorney Francis Carter told reporters he had attempted to negotiate a new plea deal with U.S. prosecutors but talks had broken off Monday and he did not expect them to resume.

Mr. Carter maintained he had no information that Mr. Sayegh "knows about" the truck bombing that killed 19 U.S. airmen and injured 500

at the Khobar Towers U.S. military housing complex on an airbase near Dhahran on Saudi Arabia's east coast. Canadian court documents have identified Mr. Sayegh as the driver of a car that gave the truck a go-ahead signal to carry out the bombing.

Mr. Carter said he had no idea whether prosecutors would bring charges against Mr. Sayegh in the Khobar Towers bombing, but said the U.S. government had "no documentary evidence" linking Mr. Sayegh to the attack or any other criminal acts.



GREATER EFFICIENCY IN THE SKY: A sub-scale aircraft with a 17-foot wingspan flies Tuesday as part of the research on the Blended-Wing-Body concept. The 120-pound, remotely piloted aircraft, was designed and built by Stanford University in cooperation with NASA and McDonnell Douglas. The BWB concept provides greater overall efficiency than conventional aircraft configurations. Under a three-year, \$2.3 million contract, McDonnell Douglas is studying this new configuration, which could be used on an 800 passenger airplanes capable of flying 7,000 nautical miles at lower costs than current aircraft designs (Reuters photo)

Britain concerned at asylum seekers tunnelling from France

LONDON (AFP) — The British authorities are concerned about the growing number of asylum seekers arriving in here from France by the Eurostar train through the Channel tunnel, the Home Office said Wednesday.

"Last week, some 102 asylum seekers came into Waterloo station with 32 dependants. That's a lot," a Home Office spokesman said. The arrivals were mostly of Somali nationality.

The home office has asked Eurostar to "look at the situation." The three rail companies that jointly run Eurostar — one British, one French and one Belgian — are only responsible for checking tickets, not passports and visas.

By contrast, airlines are legally required to check passengers' identities when they check in and board international flights. British police control all passengers' passports, but the checks are often made on arrival in London which opens the possibility for people to request asylum once on British soil.

The authorities can ask Eurostar to carry passengers without valid entry

papers back to France, but not once the arrivals have started a legal action, as many have recently done.

The junior minister for Immigration, Mike O'Brien, said in a television interview that Eurostar was "in a privileged position at the moment" since it did not have the same responsibility as airlines.

The train company has said it will work closely with the British authorities to resolve the problem, but recalled that when the tunnel service was opened three years ago it was considered impracticable to carry out systematic controls on all passengers prior to departure.

Fergie offers olive branch to Diana

LONDON (R) — Britain's Duchess of York offered an olive branch to her former sister-in-law Princess Diana, after an eight-month rift caused by her autobiography. "Nothing can stop me loving her with all my heart," the duchess — popularly known as Fergie after her maiden name Ferguson — was quoted as saying by the Daily Telegraph newspaper.

Relations between the two were said to have plummeted after the duchess wrote in her autobiography that sharing shoes with Diana had given her verrucae. Diana was also said to be upset that the duchess praised Diana's former husband, heir to the throne Prince Charles, as "an extraordinary person."

Recalling the days before her own 1996 divorce from Prince Andrew, the duchess wrote, "during my isolation in Buckingham Palace, I saw few friends. One exception was Diana with whom I shared an outsider's bond. Together we chafed at the conventions that confined us. Together we laughed and cried. Though our circumstances have changed since then, my door will always be open to Diana." The newspaper's quotes were taken from a weekly column written by the duchess and syndicated around the world, though not in Britain.

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